

The Balkan Trilogy Olivia Manning

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[The Dean's December](#) Weidenfeld & Nicolson

'So glittering is the overall parade - and so entertaining the surface - that the trilogy remains excitingly vivid' - Sunday Times 'Wonderfully entertaining' - Observer Athens, 1941. Harriet Pringle feverishly awaits news of her husband, trapped in the spoilt city of Bucharest. Yet when the young couple are reunited, Guy once again becomes absorbed in his work, leading Harriet to seek the attention of a handsome young officer. But when Greece is defeated and Europe starts to crumble around them, Guy and Harriet are forced to find a new strength amidst the devastation. Manning's exquisite observations on love, marriage and friendship during wartime are brought vibrantly to life.

[White Ghost Girls](#) New Vessel Press

From the bestselling author of Irena's War comes a gripping novel of historical fiction based on one of the most extraordinary true stories of World War II—an uprising behind the walls of Auschwitz concentration camp. October 1944: In the long, narrow undressing rooms in Auschwitz-Birkenau, prisoner Jakub Bak toils under the scrutiny of SS guards. Like other members of the Sonderkommando, Jakub was selected on arrival for an

unthinkable job: sorting through the clothes of the dead and moving their bodies from the gas chambers to the crematoriums. In this hell within a hell, Jakub clings to the promise he made to his murdered father—to live, at any cost—and to the moments he is able to spend in the company of Anna, imprisoned in the women's camp. Every morning, Anna marches miles to the union munitions factory where she works alongside other prisoners. Even Jakub doesn't know that she and a few other women have been taking the ultimate risk, smuggling trace amounts of gunpowder back in their clothing. A bold plan is brewing to revolt against the SS and liberate the camp. Jakub, pressured to join the resistance, knows that any uprising faces impossible odds. Added to this already stark choice is another desperate reality—the risk from informers who see their only chance of survival in betraying their fellow Jews. Powerfully moving and unflinching in its authenticity, *Beyond the Wire* tells of the women and men who, though outnumbered and outgunned, fought to free themselves, sparking a brilliant flash of light and hope amidst the darkest evil that humans can conceive. Praise for Irena's War "Shipman's humbling, spellbinding tale is a standout among recent works of Holocaust fiction." —Publishers Weekly (Starred Review) Sacred Hunger University of Delaware Press

Winner of the Booker Prize A historical novel set in the eighteenth century, *Sacred Hunger* is a stunning, engrossing exploration of power, domination, and greed in the British Empire as it entered fully into the slave trade and spread it throughout its colonies. Barry Unsworth follows the failing fortunes of William Kemp, a merchant pinning his last chance to a slave ship; his son who needs a fortune because he is in love with an upper-class woman; and his nephew who sails on the ship as its doctor because he has lost all he has loved. The voyage meets its demise when disease spreads among the slaves and the captain's drastic response provokes a mutiny. Joining together, the sailors and the slaves set up a secret, utopian society in the wilderness of Florida, only to await the vengeance of the single-minded, young Kemp.

[Fortunes of War: The Balkan Trilogy](#) A&C Black

Ivor Porter first came to Romania in 1939 as a teacher of English - to the exotic, semi-oriental Bucharest described by Olivia Manning. After the war had broken out, and Romania had been absorbed into the Axis sphere of influence, he - together with his fellow-expatriates - was forced to leave a colourful, turbulent country to which he had become increasingly attached; but he was to return in 1943 as a member of SOE, parachuted in to play his part in the plot to overthrow the pro-Nazi regime of Marshal Antonescu and install a government more sympathetic to the Allied cause. Operation Anonymous, and the successful coup that followed in 1944, may well have hastened the end of the war by several months by helping the Red Army to sweep through the Carpathians into Central Europe, and south to the frontiers of Greece, yet for the Romanians themselves Russia, rather than Germany, was the ancient enemy. Mixing the author's own experiences with detailed diplomatic and military history, *Operation Anonymous* opens up an important and neglected aspect of the war - and one that was to have momentous implications for the settlement of post-

war Europe.

National Geographic Books

[Fortunes of War: The Balkan Trilogy](#)New York Review of Books

[The Wind Changes](#) New York Review of Books

After enduring a vicious bear attack in the Russian Far East's Kamchatka Peninsula, a French anthropologist undergoes a physical and spiritual transformation that forces her to confront the tenuous distinction between animal and human. In *The Eye of the Wild* begins with an account of the French anthropologist Nastassja Martin's near fatal run-in with a Kamchatka bear in the mountains of Siberia. Martin's professional interest is animism; she addresses philosophical questions about the relation of humankind to nature, and in her work she seeks to partake as fully as she can in the lives of the indigenous peoples she studies. Her violent encounter with the bear, however, brings her face-to-face with something entirely beyond her ken—the untamed, the nonhuman, the animal, the wild. In the course of that encounter something in the balance of her world shifts. A change takes place that she must somehow reckon with. Left severely mutilated, dazed with pain, Martin undergoes multiple operations in a provincial Russian hospital, while also being grilled by the secret police. Back in France, she finds herself back on the operating table, a source of new trauma. She realizes that the only thing for her to do is to return to Kamchatka. She must discover what it means to have become, as the Even people call it, medka, a person who is half human, half bear. In *The Eye of the Wild* is a fascinating, mind-altering book about terror, pain, endurance, and self-transformation, comparable in its intensity of perception and originality of style to J. A. Baker's classic *The Peregrine*. Here Nastassja Martin takes us to the farthest limits of human being.

[In the Eye of the Wild](#) Arrow Books

A coming of age story of two American sisters in Hong Kong during the late 1960s. "A haunting novel written with the craft and grace of a master" (Isabel Allende). Summer 1967. The turmoil of the Maoist revolution is spilling over into Hong Kong and causing unrest as war rages in neighboring Vietnam. *White Ghost Girls* is the story of Frankie and Kate, two American sisters living in a foreign land in a chaotic time. With their war-photographer father off in Vietnam, Marianne, their beautiful but remote mother, keeps the family nearby.

Although bound by a closeness of living overseas, the sisters could not be more different—Frankie pulses with curiosity and risk, while Kate is all eyes and ears. Marianne spends her days painting watercolors of the lush surroundings, leaving the girls largely unsupervised, while their Chinese nanny, Ah Bing, does her best to look after them. One day in a village market, they decide to explore—with tragic results. In Alice Greenway's exquisite gem of a novel, two girls tumble into their teenage years against an extraordinary backdrop both sensuous and dangerous. This astonishing literary debut is a tale of sacrifice and solidarity that gleams with the kind of intense, complicated love that only exists between sisters. "Greenway is a remarkable young writer who vividly evokes Hong Kong's sights, smells, and sounds in poetic, finely detailed prose. What's more, she seems to have remembered every single charged emotion from adolescence and filters them all through the sisters' fierce, complex relationship. A heartbreakingly beautiful debut." —Booklist, starred review

[The Levant Trilogy](#) Open Road + Grove/Atlantic

The second vol. of her Levant trilogy; the 1st is *The danger tree*, and the 3d is *The sum of things*.

[Olivia Manning](#) Random House

'Her gallery of personages is huge, her scene painting superb, her pathos controlled, her humour quiet and civilised' - Anthony Burgess 'Glittering characterisation, sharp and eloquent writing' - Sunday Telegraph 'Wonderfully entertaining' - Observer Bucharest, 1940. The city is on the brink of invasion and Guy and Harriet Pringle find their position growing ever more dangerous. Harriet longs for safety, while Guy's idealism frustrates his new wife. But when the Germans march in, Guy believes they must separate in a desperate bid to find safety, so Harriet leaves for Athens. *The Spoilt City* is a dramatic and colourful portrait of a city in turmoil, and of a young couple struggling to make their marriage work in the face of adversity.

[The Balkan Trilogy](#) Anchor

NATIONAL BESTSELLER LONGLISTED FOR THE 2021 BOOKER PRIZE NAMED A BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR BY THE GLOBE AND MAIL, CBC BOOKS AND THE DAILY TELEGRAPH "I've been telling everyone I know about Mary Lawson . . . Each of her novels is just a marvel!" —Anne Tyler New York Times bestselling author Mary Lawson,

acclaimed for digging into the "wilderness of the human heart", is back after almost a decade with a fresh and timely novel that is different in subject but just as emotional and atmospheric as her beloved earlier work. *A Town Called Solace*, the brilliant and emotionally radiant new novel from Mary Lawson, her first in nearly a decade, opens on a family in crisis. Sixteen-year-old Rose is missing. Angry and rebellious, she had a row with her mother, stormed out of the house and simply disappeared. Left behind is seven-year-old Clara, Rose's adoring little sister. Isolated by her parents' efforts to protect her from the truth, Clara is bewildered and distraught. Her sole comfort is Moses, the cat next door, whom she is looking after for his elderly owner, Mrs. Orchard, who went into hospital weeks ago and has still not returned. Enter Liam Kane, mid-thirties, newly divorced, newly unemployed, newly arrived in this small northern town, who moves into Mrs. Orchard's house—where, in Clara's view, he emphatically does not belong. Within a matter of hours he receives a visit from the police. It seems he is suspected of a crime. At the end of her life, Elizabeth Orchard is also thinking about a crime, one committed thirty years previously that had tragic consequences for two families, and in particular for one small child. She desperately wants to make amends before she dies. Told through three distinct, compelling points of view, the novel cuts back and forth among these unforgettable characters to uncover the layers of grief, remorse, and love that connect them. *A Town Called Solace* is a masterful, suspenseful, darkly funny and deeply humane novel by one of our great storytellers.

[Coventry](#) Everyman's Library

'Her gallery of personages is huge, her scene painting superb, her pathos controlled, her humour quiet and civilised' Anthony Burgess 'So glittering is the overall parade - and so entertaining the surface - that the trilogy remains excitingly vivid; it amuses, it diverts and it informs, and to do these things so elegantly is no small achievement' Sunday Times 'A fantastically tart and readable account of life in eastern Europe at the start of the war' Sarah Waters *The Balkan Trilogy* is the story of a marriage and of a war, a vast, teeming, and complex masterpiece in which Olivia Manning brings the uncertainty and adventure of civilian existence under political and military siege to vibrant life. At the heart of the trilogy are newly-weds Guy and Harriet Pringle, who arrive in Bucharest - the so-called Paris of the East - in the autumn of 1939, just weeks after the German invasion of Poland. Guy's lecturing job awaits, alongside friends and the ever-ardent Sophie - but for Harriet, alone and naive, it's a strange new life. Other surprises follow: Romania joins the Axis, and before long German soldiers overrun the capital. The Pringles flee south to Greece, part of a group of refugees made up of White Russians, journalists, con artists, and dignitaries. In Athens, however, the couple will face a new challenge of their own...

[School for Love](#) New York Review of Books

Olivia Manning's reputation as a difficult personality often threatens to obscure her reputation as a writer. Few twentieth century novelists can have inspired such consistent dislike. The publisher Dan Davin, for example, who was devoted to Manning's gregarious husband Reggie Smith, complained of her as a shrewish woman whose aim was to be as unpleasant to as many people as possible, while the legendary denizen of Fitzrovia, Julian Maclaren-Ross, recalled among his Stag's Head drinking circle the taciturn, undemonstrative and physically unattractive Olivia Manning who, from the vantage point of her bar-stool regarded the others with an expression of amusement, mingled with contempt. Fellow writer Inez Holden christened her "whiney" Manning; Anthony Powell, her otherwise generous editor at *Punch*, admitted her to be the world's worst grumbler and her publishers at Heinemann were forced to conclude that she was never an easy artist to handle. Even Kay Dick, her lifelong friend and correspondent, depicted Manning in her 1984 novel *The Shelf* as the spiteful gossip Sophie, who, with her wry fragility, delicate hands and penetrating voice . . . often reminded me of a goshawk about to bite.

[Eustace and Hilda](#) Simon and Schuster

The first literary biography of the twentieth-century novelist Olivia Manning, this volume is a timely, expert, and well-researched biography that offers a vivid portrait of wartime survival and of London literary life from the 1950s through the 1970s.

[The Doves of Venus](#) Csa Word

Every age that has produced literary epics has also produced variations on the elements that constitute the epic. 'Twentieth-Century Epic Novels' examines the most popular 20th-century manifestations of epic sensibilities by looking closely at five major examples of the 20th-century epic novel.

The Sum of Things Kensington Books

Fourteen subtle and beautifully written stories of varying theme and setting are brought together in this brilliant collection: haunting studies of lonely childhoods, shrewdly perceptive portraits of adult relationships and black comedies of domestic deadlock – all infused with Olivia Manning’s precise and consistent wit.

Friends and Heroes (The Balkan Trilogy 3) Fortunes of War: The Balkan Trilogy

Jerusalem in 1945 is a city in flux: refugees from the war in Europe fill its streets and cafés, the British colonial mandate is coming to an end, and tensions are on the rise between the Arab and Jewish populations. Felix Latimer, a recently orphaned teenager, arrives in Jerusalem from Baghdad, biding time until he can secure passage to England. Adrift and deeply lonely, Felix has no choice but to room in a boardinghouse run by Miss Bohun, a relative he has never met. Miss Bohun is a holy terror, a cheerless miser who proclaims the ideals of a fundamentalist group known as the Ever-Readies—joy, charity, and love—even as she makes life a misery for her boarders. Then Mrs. Ellis, a fascinating young widow, moves into the house and disrupts its dreary routine for good. Olivia Manning’s great subject is the lives of ordinary people caught up in history. Here, as in her panoramic depiction of World War II, *The Balkan Trilogy*, she offers a rich and psychologically nuanced story of life on the precipice, and she tells it with equal parts compassion, skepticism, and humor.

Olivia Manning Odyssey Editions

Olivia Manning was born in Portsmouth to a naval family in 1908 and she made an independent if penurious life for herself as a young woman, painting furniture and reading film scripts for MGM. Her first novel was published in 1937. Olivia married Regie Smith a lecturer in the British Council and they resided in Bucharest. After the war she was at the centre of the London literary scene.

The Balkan Trilogy New York Review of Books

The third vol. of her Levant trilogy; the 1st is *The Danger Tree*, and the 2d is *The Battle Lost and Won*.

The Spoilt City OUP Oxford

After being widely portrayed as a virulent racist and a traitor to his city, Professor Albert Corde, dean of the faculty of Journalism, is forced to leave Chicago. Corde is ill-equipped to handle the outrage that faces him, both as the author of several articles on Chicago’s endemic corruption, and as an outspoken figure in the controversial trial of two black men charged with killing a white student. Travelling to Bucharest to visit his ailing mother-in-law, he is unable to escape the comparisons in his mind between the corrupt and dehumanizing aspects of the communist regime, and the abandoned streets of his home city. Meditating on the juxtaposition between two distant worlds, and obsessing over events that begin to unfold both in Chicago and Bucharest, he begins to concede defeat. In this tormented tale, amid the swirling forces that threaten to drown his humanity, Corde slides ever closer to the brink of desolation.

Beyond the Wire Random House

From one of the classic writers of post-war English literature comes a stunning novel of love, betrayal and redemption. Married but obstinately set in their separate ways, Hugh and Kristy Foster know nothing of Al-Bustan, a far-flung island in the Indian Ocean. Too late they discover how it seethes with unrest and intrigue. Yet now when they need each other, the sullen, muttering forest seems only to intensify their differences.