

The Black Book Lawrence Durrell

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[Balthazar Open Road Media](#)

Before Peter Mayle there was Lawrence Durrell, who for more than 30 years made Provence his home. In this, his last book, he distills the affection and understanding of half a lifetime, describing the rich culture and giving breath to the history that still invests the land. 39 color photos.

[The Black Book Faber & Faber](#)

An unnamed art collector becomes obsessed with a portrait of a woman named Justine, and his hours spent smoking opium and looking at the painting send him rushing around London looking for her, as his sense of what is real and what is fantasy disappears

[Justine Open Road Media](#)

A collection of travel essays from the bestselling author whose writing sparkles with “ prose as luminous as the Mediterranean air he loves ” (Time). Few men have traveled as wisely as Lawrence Durrell. Born in India, he lived in Corfu as a young man, enjoying salt air, cobalt water, and an unfettered bohemian lifestyle. Over the following decades, he rambled around the Mediterranean, making homes in Egypt, Cyprus, and Greece. Each time he moved, he asked himself why he felt compelled to travel. In this book, he gives his answer. Durrell knew that the wise traveler looks not for pleasure, education, or landmarks, but is hungry for a sense of place—the element of a landscape, city, or nation that makes its people who they are. In this anthology, passages from Durrell ’ s classic Mediterranean writings are paired with observations on other lands. His writing is poetic, lush, and achingly clear, for this was a man who truly saw the world.

[Antrobus Complete Open Road Media](#)

The definitive collection of travel writings by one of the twentieth century ’ s best-loved journeyers From the moment of his birth, Lawrence Durrell was far from home. A British child in India, he was sent to England to receive an education, and by his early twenties had already tired of his native land. With family in tow, he departed for Greece, and spent the rest of his life wandering the world. He traveled not to sightsee but to live, and made homes in Egypt, France, Yugoslavia, and Argentina. Each time he landed, he rooted himself deep into the native soil, taking in not just the sights and sounds of his new land, but the essential character of the country. In these letters and essays, Durrell exhibits the power of poetic observation that made his travel writing so extraordinary to post – World War II readers. In these pages he reminds us not just of each country ’ s hidden charms, but of the unique characteristics that persist through the generations.

[Sauve Qui Peut Open Road Media](#)

Travel memoirs “as luminous as the Mediterranean air” from the acclaimed author of the Alexandria Quartet, who is featured in *The Durrells in Corfu* (Time). Born in India, acclaimed British novelist and poet Lawrence Durrell lived in Corfu as a young man, enjoying salt air, cobalt water, and an unfettered bohemian lifestyle, along with his brother, Gerald, who would also go on to be a writer and a naturalist. Their real-life family is portrayed in the PBS Masterpiece production, *The Durrells in Corfu*. Over the following decades, he rambled around the Mediterranean, making homes in Egypt, Cyprus, and Greece, always bringing his poet’s eye to document his experiences. *Prospero’s Cell*: Along with his family, Lawrence Durrell spent four youthful years on Corfu, an island jewel with beauty to match its fascinating history. While his brother, Gerald, was collecting animals as a budding naturalist, Lawrence fished, drank, and lived with the natives in the years leading up to World War II, sheltered from the tumult that was engulfing Europe—until finally he could ignore the world no longer. Durrell left for Alexandria, to serve his country as a wartime diplomat, but never forgot the wonders of Corfu, captured so beautifully in this “brilliant” memoir (*The Economist*). “In its gem-like miniature quality, [*Prospero’s Cell*] is among the best books ever written.” —*The New York Times* *Reflections on a Marine Venus*: After four tortuous wartime years in Egypt, Durrell finds a post on the island of Rhodes, where the British are attempting to return Greece to the sleepy peace it enjoyed in the 1930s. From a dip in the frigid Aegean Sea, which jolts him awake for what feels like the first time in years, Durrell breathes in the joys of island life, meeting villagers, eating exotic food, and throwing back endless bottles of ouzo. “Sparkles with . . . intense energy . . . brilliance and fire.” —*The Christian Science Monitor* *Spirit of Place*: In these letters and essays, Durrell exhibits the power of poetic observation that continues to make his travel writing so vivid and fresh. He traveled not to sightsee but to live, and made homes in the Mediterranean, Egypt, France, Yugoslavia, and Argentina. Each time he landed, he rooted himself deep into the native soil, taking in not just the sights and sounds of his new land, but the essential character of the country, which he brings to life in these pages. “The letters depict the brio of Durrell’s existence with intoxicating vividness.” —*The New York Times*

[Mountolive Faber & Faber](#)

A former member of Great Britain’s diplomatic corps, the celebrated author of the Alexandria Quartet offers eleven sketches of life in service of the crown. After decades spent representing Britain around the globe, Antrobus has earned a shirtful of medals and the right to pass afternoons in his London club, musing over old times. His memory is long, and every old embarrassment still rankles—no matter how ridiculous. The incident with the Yugoslav ghost train, for instance, still causes him to clench his fists in fear. When he speaks of Sir Claud Polk-Mowbray, he takes pains to lower his voice—lest an American hear. And his stomach has never recovered from the incident involving the fried flag. Based on Lawrence Durrell’s own experience in the diplomatic corps, Antrobus’s cutting observation is drawn from the strange and humorous truth. Few are those with a better sense of place than Durrell, and even fewer with wit to match.

[Blue Thirst Arcade Publishing](#)

The celebrated author of the Alexandria Quartet offers a collection of comic tales about the British Empire’s colonial diplomats. As the overseer of the kitchen at the British embassy in Vulgaria, De Mandeville has begun to abuse his power. He subjects the King’s guests to a blistering Madras curry, a French onion soup served without spoons, and a table so loaded with vegetation that the party can hardly see the food. But worst of all, he has begun to cook with garlic, that fragrant bulb so beloved by diplomats that it must be banned, lest foul breath cripple the Empire. De Mandeville is due for comeuppance, and no breath mint can save him now. “If Garlic Be the Food of Love” is only the first story in this invaluable peek at life in British diplomatic circles. After the ninth, the reader will wonder not how the British Empire came apart, but how De Mandeville, Polk-Mowbray, and the King’s other dips ever got it started in the first place.

[The Black Book University of Victoria Department of English](#)

[The Black BookFaber & Faber](#)

[Open Road Media](#)

Travel writing “as luminous as the Mediterranean air” from the acclaimed author of the Alexandria Quartet, who is featured in PBS’s *The Durrells in Corfu* (Time). Born in India, acclaimed British novelist and poet Lawrence Durrell lived in Corfu as a young man, enjoying salt air, cobalt water, and an unfettered bohemian lifestyle, along with his brother, Gerald, who would also go on to be a writer and a naturalist. Their real-life family is portrayed in the PBS Masterpiece production, *The Durrells in Corfu*. Over the following decades, he rambled around the Mediterranean, making homes in Egypt, Cyprus, and Greece, always bringing his poet’s eye to document his experiences. *Blue Thirst*: In the first of a pair of lectures, given during a 1970s visit to California, Durrell recalls his family’s time living on the Greek island of Corfu, expanding on his eloquent memoir, *Prospero’s Cell*. When the Second World War came to the Mediterranean, Durrell was swept into diplomatic service, an adventure he vividly recounts in his powerful second lecture. “[Durrell’s] travel books arrive like long letters from a civilized and very funny friend.” —*Time* *Sicilian Carousel*: For years, Durrell’s friend Martine had begged him to visit her on the sun-kissed paradise of Sicily, but it took her sudden death to finally bring him to the island’s shores. With Martine’s letters in his pocket, Durrell treks from sight to sight, dizzy with history and culture, and finds haunting echoes of his past lives in Rhodes, Cyprus, and Corfu. “Elegant . . . wonderful.” —*Time* *Bitter Lemons of Cyprus*: Against the backdrop of the push for independence on Cyprus in the early 1950s, the poet, novelist, and former British government official buys a house, secures a job, and settles in, yearning for a return to the island lifestyle of his youth. Winner of the Duff Cooper Prize, this memoir is an elegant picture of island life in a changing world. “Brilliant depth of language . . . gathering slowly from the lighter delightful pages to its lost and questioning end. Never for a moment does [Durrell] lose the poet’s touch.” —*The New York Times*

[The New York Times](#)

[Nunquam Open Road Media](#)

The astounding third offering in Durrell’s Alexandria Quartet, a richly detailed and extraordinary expansion of the events of *Justine* and *Balthazar* David Mountolive is a British diplomat who views love as just another everyday transaction. But as romance turns to betrayal and secret alliances are exposed, Mountolive’s affair will bring the true complexity of contemporary love to the forefront amid the swirling political climate of Alexandria. Continuing to push beyond the limits of the traditional novel, Lawrence Durrell maintains his unwavering focus in *Mountolive*. He recasts the romantic affairs and liaisons he so skillfully established in *Justine* and *Balthazar* through the eyes of the young Mountolive, building toward the series’ stunning conclusion. This ebook contains a new introduction by Jan Morris.

[The Black Book G K Hall & Company](#)

The British Foreign Office is a timeless institution. Antrobus is the embodiment of everything that makes it what it is. His tales of diplomatic misadventure, accompanied by memorable and witty drawings, make a collection to cherish, for as long as the Foreign Office holds sway over far-flung British interests. “Whatever wars there may be and whatever crises, there will still, please heaven, be the diplomatic corps, with its protocol and formalities and a field of humour which I have never seen better used than in these stories.” John Betjeman

[Mountolive Open Road Media](#)

A moving account of friendship and discovery on the island of Sicily from the acclaimed travel writer and bestselling author of *The Alexandria Quartet*. Despite decades spent writing poetic evocations of the timeless pleasures of life in the Mediterranean, Lawrence Durrell had never set foot on the sea’s largest island: mysterious, impenetrable Sicily. For years his friend Martine begged him to visit her on this sun-kissed paradise, and though he always intended to, life inevitably interfered. It took Martine’s sudden death to finally bring him to the island’s shores. With Martine’s letters in his pocket, Durrell signs up for a tour group, hoping to learn the travel habits of those who aren’t obsessively devoted to island life. As he treks from sight to sight, dizzy with history and culture, Durrell finds echoes of his past lives in Rhodes, Cyprus, and Corfu.

[Lawrence Durrell's "The Black Book" and "The Alexandria Quartet" Open Road Media](#)

In 1935 a young Englishman living on Corfu wrote enthusiastically to a middle-aged Brooklynite who had just published a *succes de scandale* in Paris: “... Tropic [of Cancer] turns the corner into a new life which has regained its bowels.” Henry Miller, realizing that in Lawrence Durrell he had hooked his ideal reader, responded: “You’re the first Britisher who’s written me an intelligent letter about the book.” Thus began a correspondence that ended only with Miller’s death in 1980 - nearly 1,000,000 words later. *The Durrell-Miller Letters, 1935-80* contains an extensive and representative selection of the total correspondence. Almost half of the present volume has never been published before, including some recently recovered “lost” letters; in addition, many passages expurgated from letters published in 1963 have been restored. Editor Ian S. MacNiven of the State University of New York, Maritime College, is quite right to regard the Durrell-Miller correspondence as a dual biography of the creative lives of two of this century’s great literary iconoclasts, a biography “At once as serious as Schopenhauer

and as winning as wine." "

Caesar's Vast Ghost The Black Book

'The most exhilarating surge of language, style and sordid English manners [in] literature.' DBC Pierre 'A wild, passionate, brilliantly gaudy and flamboyant extravaganza ... Richly obscene, energetically morbid, very often very funny ... Above all, stylistically and verbally inventive.' Observer . Death Gregory has disappeared, abandoning his diaries in a seedy London hotel. Discovered by Lawrence Lucifer, they depict a clique of intellectuals living a life of squalid debauchery: struggling writers and artists consumed by loves, lusts, and a quest for innovation. But as they satisfy violent appetites of the flesh - and mind - their descent into darkness accelerates ... Written when he was only 24, Lawrence Durrell described his controversial third novel as 'a two-fisted attack on literature by an angry young man of the thirties' in which he 'first heard the sound of my own voice.' First published in Paris in 1938, it was banned in Britain for nearly four decades due to its 'obscenity' (influenced by Durrell's friend Henry Miller). Vivid, surrealist, and haunting, *The Black Book* peers into the recesses of our souls: and establishes Durrell as a trailblazing stylist. 'Stygian prose ... Words like stones, throwing, rockerying, mossaing, churning, sharpening, bloodsucking, melting, and a hard firewater flows and rolls through them.' Dylan Thomas 'Genuine art ... Lavishly displays Durrell's gift of language ... Verbal brilliance.' New York Times 'The first piece of work by a new English writer to give me any hope for the future of prose fiction.' T.S. Eliot 'Durrell's first major work ... Its showy brilliance is certainly that of a born writer ... Savage and obscene.' Guardian 'Brilliantly strange ... It will astonish.' Independent on Sunday

Panic Spring New Directions Publishing

This "very remarkable novel"—first in the acclaimed Alexandria Quartet—tells a haunting story of love, desire, and deception in the Egyptian city pre-WWII (New York Herald Tribune Book Review). Set in Alexandria, Egypt, in the years between World Wars I and II, *Justine* is the first installment in the distinguished Alexandria Quartet. Here Lawrence Durrell crafts an exquisite and challenging modern novel that explores tragic love and the fluidity of recollection.

Employing a fluctuating narrative and poetic prose, Durrell recounts his unnamed narrator's all-encompassing romance with the intoxicating *Justine*. The result is a matchless work that confronts all we understand and believe about sexual desire, identity, place, and the certainty of time. This ebook contains a new introduction by Jan Morris.

Lawrence Durrell, The Black Book and the "Quartet" Fairleigh Dickinson Univ Press

Who will survive the Labyrinth of Crete? A group of English cruise-ship tourists debark to visit the isle of Crete's famed labyrinth, the City in the Rock. The motley gathering includes a painter, a poet, a soldier, an elderly married couple, a medium, a convalescent girl, and the mysterious Lord Gracean. The group is prepared for a trifling day of sightseeing and maybe even a glimpse of the legendary Minotaur, but instead is suddenly stuck in a nightmare when a rockslide traps them deep within the labyrinth. Who among the passengers will make it out alive? And for those who emerge, will anything ever be the same?

The Durrell of the Black Book Days Open Road Media

A new view of the complex relationship between the members of a romantic quadrangle in Alexandria, Egypt is offered through the eyes of British diplomat

Pope Joan Open Road Media

"First published in 1937, two years after Durrell took up residence on the Greek island Kerkyra, *Panic Spring* broke with the realist tradition in 1930s novels and shows the young author's first attempts to extend High Modernist innovations in rural and personal landscapes. Cubist, surrealist, and imagist techniques merge with rural life and the peasant village that an international group of expatriates are led to by a curiously Pan-like boatman. Unavailable for seven decades, this new edition of *Panic Spring* shows Durrell's emerging passion for Mediterranean life and the Greek world as well as his first attempts to articulate a political-aesthetic direction distinct from his peers, George Orwell and W.H. Auden. Under the shadow of financial and political ruin, on the verge of revolution and war, the one chance summer depicted in *Panic Spring* will make readers reconsider the impetus and interests behind Durrell's late modernist masterpieces, *The Alexandria Quartet*, *The Black Book*, and *Prospero's Cell*." -- Publisher's website.

Lawrence Durrell, Henry Miller Open Road Media

This volume presents a number of original essays on aspects of Lawrence Durrell which have not previously been discussed. Durrell (1912-1990) was the ground-breaking author of *The Alexandria Quartet*, *Tunc-Nunquam* (*The Revolt of Aphrodite*) and *The Avignon Quintet* and of many plays, volumes of poetry and essays. This volume, by one of the world's foremost experts on Durrell's life and work, explores his early literary connections with Henry Miller, Anaïs Nin, Alfred Perlès and David Gascoyne in topics such as surrealism and psychology. It features new insights into Durrell's approach to popular literature, Greek politics and sexual orientation, and establishes Durrell's mental states from an examination of his private notebooks. It presents a composite portrait of a writer obsessed with the themes of identity, creativity, sexuality and freedom.

Stiff Upper Lip Crown

The "virtuoso" author's memoir of his spiritual journey with famed Taoist philosopher Jolan Chang (*The New York Times*). Beginning with their first meeting over lunch at Lawrence Durrell's Provencal home, Durrell and Jolan Chang—renowned Taoist philosopher and expert on Eastern sexuality—developed an enduring relationship based on mutual spiritual exploration. Durrell's autobiographical rumination on their friendship and on Taoism recounts the author's existential ponderings, starting with his introduction to the mystical and enigmatic "smile in the mind's eye." From parsimony, cooking, and yoga to poetry, Petrarch, and Nietzsche, *A Smile in the Mind's Eye* is a charming tale of a writer's spiritual and philosophical awakening.