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# The Finkler Question Howard Jacobson

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**Who's Sorry Now** Simon and Schuster  
BOOKER PRIZE WINNER •  
NATIONAL BESTSELLER •  
An “extraordinary meditation on mortality, grief, death, childhood and memory” (USA Today) about a middle-aged Irishman who has gone back

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to the seaside to grieve the loss of his wife. In this luminous novel, John Banville introduces us to Max Morden, a middle-aged Irishman who has gone back to the seaside town where he spent his summer holidays as a child to cope with the recent loss of his wife. It is also a return to the place where he met the Graces, the well-heeled family with whom he experienced the strange suddenness of both love and death for the first time. What Max comes to understand about the past, and about its indelible effects on him, is at the center of this elegiac, gorgeously written novel—among the finest we

have had from this masterful writer. Kalooki Nights A&C Black From the Man Booker Prize-winning author of *The Finkler Question* and *J*, and one of “our funniest writers alive” (Allison Pearson): a wickedly observed novel of old age and new love. At the age of ninety-something, Beryl Dusinbery is forgetting everything—including her own children. Her tongue, meanwhile, remains as sharp as ever. She spends her days stitching macabre messages into her needlework and tormenting her two long-suffering

carers with tangled stories of her love affairs. Shimi Carmelli can do up his own buttons, walk without the aid of a frame, and speak without spitting. Among the widows of North London, he’s whispered about as the last of the eligible bachelors. Unlike Beryl, he forgets nothing—especially not the shame of a childhood incident that has hung over him ever since. There’s very little life remaining for either of them, but perhaps just enough to heal some of the hurt inflicted along the way and find new meaning in what’s left. Could this be

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their chance to live a little? occasional flicker of genuine delivers. Live a Little is  
 Told with Jacobson ' s terror, it ' s rarely less than about growing old, but it ' s  
 trademark wit and style, bitterly funny in its also about gender, race,  
 Live a Little is equal parts determination to face up to love and  
 funny, irreverent, and the obliteration that awaits politics. " —Independent  
 tender—a novel to make you us all. " —The Guardian " WhatTender and funny. " —Grazia  
 consider all the paths not a relief to come on a novel In the Land of Oz Overlook  
 taken, and whether you which invites you to smile Books  
 could still change course. and even laugh. " —The  
 Advance praise for Live a Scotsman " The novel ' s  
 Little " One of the great brilliant cover tells it all:  
 comic geniuses of our hearts and skulls, love and  
 time. " —Lit Hub " A tender death. " —The Jewish  
 story of unlikely love . . . Chronicle " A thoroughly  
 Jacobson treats with enjoyable read. For a  
 compassion the dilemma of literature snob and a  
 old age. . . . Wise, witty, and language obsessive . . .  
 deftly crafted. " —Kirkus there is a lot to feast on . . .  
 Reviews (starred review) for someone looking for an  
 " For all of its moments of emotionally honest  
 bleakness, and the storyline, the book also  
 Laurence Waters arrives at his

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new post at a deserted rural hospital, staff physician Frank Eloff is instantly suspicious. Laurence is everything Frank is not—young, optimistic, and full of big ideas. The whole town is beset with new arrivals and the return of old faces. Frank reestablishes a liaison with a woman, one that will have unexpected consequences. A self-made dictator from apartheid days is rumored to be active in cross-border smuggling, and a group of soldiers has moved in to track him, led by a man from Frank's own dark past. Laurence sees only possibilities—but in a world where the past is demanding restitution from the present, his ill-starred idealism cannot last. “Galgut's

prose, its gentle rhythms and straightforward sentences edging toward revelation, is utterly seductive and suspenseful . . . Galgut is a master of psychological tension. . . . Tragic and brilliant.” —The Globe and Mail (Toronto)  
J Bloomsbury  
Publishing  
Man Booker  
Prize-Winning  
Author of THE  
FINKLER QUESTION  
Swathed in his  
kimono, drinking  
tea from his  
samovar, Henry  
Nagle is

temperamentally opposed to life in the 21st century. Preferring not to contemplate the great intellectual and worldly success of his best boyhood friend, he argues constantly with his father, an upholsterer turned fire-eater—and now dead for many years. When he goes out at all, Henry goes after other men's wives. But

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when he mysteriously inherits a sumptuous apartment, Henry's life changes, bringing on a slick descendant of Robert Louis Stevenson, an excitable red setter, and a wise-cracking waitress with a taste for danger. All of them demand his attention, even his love, a word which barely exists in

Henry's magisterial vocabulary, never mind his heart. From one of England's most highly regarded writers, The Making of Henry is a ravishing novel, at once wise, tender and mordantly funny. Disobedience Random House Marvin Kreitman, the luggage baron of South London, lives for sex. Or at least he lives for women. At present he loves four women - his mother, his

wife Hazel, and his two daughters - and is in love with five more. Charlie Merriweather, on the other hand, nice Charlie, loves just the one woman, also called Charlie, the wife with whom he has been writing children's books and having nice sex for twenty years. Once a week the two friends meet for a Chinese lunch, contriving never quite to have the conversation they would like to have - about fidelity and womanising, and which makes you happier. Until today. It is Charlie who takes the dangerous step of

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asking for a piece of Marvin's  
disordered life, but what  
follows embroils them all, the  
wives no less than the  
husbands. And none of them  
will ever be the same again.

Pussy Open Road +  
Grove/Atlantic

It takes a particular kind of man  
to want an embroidered polo  
player astride his left nipple.  
Occasionally, when I am tired  
and emotional, or consumed  
with self-dislike, I try to imagine  
myself as someone else, a wearer  
of Yarmouth shirts and fleecy  
sweats, of windbreakers and  
rugged Tyler shorts, of baseball  
caps with polo players where the

section of the brain that concerns  
itself with aesthetics is supposed  
to be. But the hour passes. Good  
men return from fighting Satan  
in the wilderness the stronger for  
their struggle, and so do I. The  
winner of the 2010 Man Booker  
Prize, Howard Jacobson, brims  
with life in this collection of his  
most acclaimed journalism.  
From the unusual disposal of his  
father-in-law's ashes and the  
cultural wasteland of Chitty  
Chitty Bang Bang to the  
melancholy sensuality of  
Leonard Cohen and desolation  
of Wagner's tragedies, Jacobson  
writes with all the thunder and  
joy of a man possessed.

Absurdity piles upon absurdity,  
and glorious sentences weave  
together to create a hilarious,  
heartbreaking and uniquely  
human collection. This book is  
not just a series of parts, but an  
irresistible, unputdownable sum  
which triumphantly out-  
Thurbers Thurber.

In a Strange Room Random  
House

\_\_\_\_\_ 'A wildly  
funny account of his travels ...  
it actually is a book which  
makes you laugh out loud on  
almost every page' - Literary  
Review 'The most successful  
attempt I know to grip the

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great dreaming Australian  
enigma by the throat and  
make it gargle' - Evening  
Standard 'A marvellous read ...  
he is a comic explorer in the  
grandest mould' - Financial  
Times \_\_\_\_\_ The  
Man Booker Prize-winning  
author of *The Finkler  
Question* went Down Under -  
and this is what he found... On  
what he calls 'the adventure of  
his life', Howard Jacobson  
travels around Australia, never  
entirely sure where he is  
heading next or whether he  
has the courage to tackle the  
wild life of the bush, the wild

men of the outback, or the  
even wilder women of the  
seaboard cities. In pursuit of  
the best of Australian good  
times, he joins revelers at  
Uluru, argues with racists in  
the Kimberleys, parties with  
wine-growers in the Barossa  
and falls for ballet dancers in  
Perth. And even as vexed  
questions of national identity  
and Aboriginal land rights  
present themselves, his love for  
Australia and Australians  
never falters.

\_\_\_\_\_   
'Entertaining ... this is a book  
about exotic Australia - the

fringes, the deserts, the opal  
mines, the Aborigines, and the  
North Queensland rednecks' -  
Guardian

Coming From Behind Europa  
Editions

A provocatively entertaining,  
savagely funny satire on Donald  
Trump by Britain 's greatest  
comic novelist. *Pussy* is the story of  
Prince Fracassus, heir presumptive  
to the Duchy of Origen, famed for  
its golden-gated skyscrapers and  
casinos, who passes his boyhood  
watching reality shows on TV,  
imagining himself to be the Roman  
Emperor Nero, and fantasizing  
about hookers. He is idle, boastful,  
thin-skinned and egotistic; has no  
manners, no curiosity, no

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knowledge, no idea and no words in the Bible that he finds scattered which to express them. Could he, in that case, be the very leader to make the country great again?

### Live a Little Viking Adult

A young woman's coming of age, a romantic love story, and a spiritual journey—each infused with the lessons of history. In the Image is an extraordinary first novel illuminated by spiritual exploration, one that remembers "a language, a literature, a held hand, an entire world lived and breathed in the image of God." Bill Landsmann, an elderly Jewish refugee in a New Jersey suburb with a passion for travel, is obsessed with building his slide collection of images from

throughout the world. The novel begins when he crosses paths with his granddaughter's friend, Leora, and continues by moving forward through her life and backward through his, revealing the unexpected links between his family's past and her family's future. Not just a first novel but a cultural event—a wedding of secular and religious forms of literature—In the Image neither lives in the past nor seeks to escape it, but rather assimilates it, in the best sense of the word, honoring what is lost and finding, among the lost things, the treasures that can renew the

present. Reading group guide included.

The Very Model of a Man  
Bloomsbury Publishing USA  
An investigation of the origins of comedy and the meaning of laughter, drawing on biology, anthropology, classical studies, behavioural science, philosophy and psychology - with a few authorial jokes along the way.

### Don't Let My Baby Do Rodeo A&C Black

This is a comprehensive and definitive study of the Man Booker Prize-winning novelist, Howard Jacobson. It offers lucid, detailed and nuanced readings of each of

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Jacobson's novels, and makes a powerful case for the importance of his work in the landscape of contemporary fiction. Focusing on the themes of comedy, masculinity and Jewishness, the book emphasises the richness and diversity of Jacobson's work. Often described by others as 'the English Philip Roth' and by himself as 'the Jewish Jane Austen', Jacobson emerges here as a complex and often contradictory figure: a fearless novelist; a combative public intellectual; a polemical journalist; an unapologetic elitist and an irreverent outsider; an exuberant iconoclast and a sombre satirist. Never afraid of controversy, Jacobson tends to polarise readers; but love him or hate him, he is difficult to ignore. This book gives him the thorough consideration and the balanced evaluation that he deserves. This book will be of interest to readers and scholars of contemporary fiction, twenty-first century literature and Jewish literature. *The Dog's Last Walk* W. W. Norton & Company

Evliya Celebi was the Orhan Pamuk of the 17th century, the Pepys of the Ottoman world - a diligent, adventurous and honest recorder with a puckish wit and humour. He is in the pantheon of the great travel-writers of the world, though virtually unknown to western readers. This translation brings his sparkling work to life.

*The Finkler Question* Anchor  
Finalist for the 2010 Man Booker Prize  
The New York Times Book Review Notable Book of the Year  
In her follow-up to *Small Island*, winner of the Whitbread Book of the Year Award and the Orange Prize for Fiction, Andrea Levy

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once again reinvents the historical novel. Told in the irresistibly willful and intimate voice of Miss July, with some editorial assistance from her son, Thomas, *The Long Song* is at once defiant, funny, and shocking. The child of a field slave on the Amity sugar plantation in Jamaica, July lives with her mother until Mrs. Caroline Mortimer, a recently transplanted English widow, decides to move her into the great house and rename her "Marguerite." Together they live through the bloody Baptist War and the

violent and chaotic end of slavery. An extraordinarily powerful story, "*The Long Song* leaves its reader with a newly burnished appreciation for life, love, and the pursuit of both" (*The Boston Globe*). *The Accidental Vintage* 'One of the all-time great memoirs' *Daily Telegraph* 'Wonderful...candid, shrewd and moving' William Boyd 'Laugh-out-loud glorious and uproarious' Simon Schama *Howard Jacobson's* funny, revealing and tender memoir of his path to becoming a writer. *Howard Jacobson* was forty when his first novel was

published. In *Mother's Boy*, he traces the life that brought him there. Born into a working-class Jewish family in 1940s Manchester, he did not lack encouragement or subject matter. *Jacobson* takes us from childhood and studying at Cambridge, through landing in Sydney as a maverick young professor, and on to his first marriage and the birth of his son. Later, he begins new - and often surprising - ventures in places as disparate as London, Wolverhampton, Boscastle and Melbourne. Infused with bittersweet memories of *Jacobson's* parents and friends,

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this is the story of a writer's beginnings, and of learning to understand who you are before you can become the writer you were meant to be. 'Hilariously brilliant' David Baddiel 'Howard Jacobson brilliantly transforms calamity into rip-roaring comedy' Craig Brown, Mail on Sunday

Whatever It Is, I Don't Like It  
Penguin UK

"He should have seen it coming. His life had been one mishap after another. So he should have been prepared for this one..."

Julian Treslove, a professionally unspectacular and disappointed BBC worker, and Sam Finkler, a

popular Jewish philosopher, writer and television personality, are old school friends. Despite a prickly relationship and very different lives, they've never quite lost touch with each other - or with their former teacher, Libor Sevick, a Czechoslovakian always more concerned with the wider world than with exam results. Now, both Libor and Finkler are recently widowed, and with Treslove, his chequered and unsuccessful record with women rendering him an honorary third widower, they dine at Libor's grand, central London apartment. It's a sweetly painful evening of reminiscence

in which all three remove themselves to a time before they had loved and lost; a time before they had fathered children, before the devastation of separations, before they had prized anything greatly enough to fear the loss of it. Better, perhaps, to go through life without knowing happiness at all because that way you had less to mourn? Treslove finds he has tears enough for the unbearable sadness of both his friends' losses. And it's that very evening, at exactly 11:30pm, as Treslove hesitates a moment outside the window of the oldest violin dealer in the country as he walks

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home, that he is attacked. After this, his whole sense of who and what he is will slowly and ineluctably change. The Finkler Question is a scorching story of exclusion and belonging, justice and love, ageing, wisdom and humanity. Funny, furious, unflinching, this extraordinary novel shows one of our finest writers at his brilliant best.

The Sea Abrams

Barney Fugleman has two major preoccupations in life: sex and literature. He is obsessed by the life and work of a man hailed by many as a genius of the nineteenth century - and by Barney as a 'prurient little Victorian ratbag'. This curious propulsion drives him

out of Finchley, and out of the life he shares with Sharon and her 'rampant marvellings', to Cornwall. There he offends serious rambles with his slip-on snakeskin shoes, fur coat and antagonism to all things green and growing as he stomps the wild Atlantic cliffs on long, morbid walks, tampering with the truth, tangling with the imperious Camilla - and telling a riotous tale. By the winner of the Man Booker Prize and author of The Finkler Question.

The Act of Love Simon and Schuster

The fall of man from Cain's point of view. He calls God a spiteful tyrant and has nasty things to say about such biblical personages as Abel, Adam and Eve, and his

girlfriend, Zilpah. By the author of Coming from Behind.

Life Times Vintage

\_\_\_\_\_ '[An] acutely observed collection of occasional pieces that pick at absurdist life and reveal him to be a quiz, a cultural critic gifted with precise comic timing' - The Times 'The author's prose is always a delight ... a book that manages the high-wire act of being genuinely funny while dispensing genuine wisdom' - Times Literary Supplement 'Jacobson is one of the great sentence-builders of our time.'

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I feel I have to raise my game, even just to praise ... In short, he is one of the great guardians of language and culture - all of it. Long may he flourish' - Nicholas Lezard, Guardian  
\_\_\_\_\_ Week after week, for eighteen years, the Booker Prize-winning novelist Howard Jacobson wrote a weekly column for the Independent, reflecting in inimitable style on the sacred and the profane in turn, the frivolous and the serious, the deeply personal and the most universal. The shame and humiliation inherent in death

is explored with frank astuteness. Matisse, darts and the power of love are celebrated; while cyclists are very much censured. And meanwhile, a beloved old Labrador walks his last walk as life elsewhere hurtles on and away... The Dog's Last Walk is a collection of wisdom and iconoclasm for our uncertain times, and one that reveals one of our greatest writers in all his humanity. \_\_\_\_\_ 'Sharp and playful, surreal and thoughtful, and occasionally ... rather moving' - New Statesman 'Yes, Jacobson is an

entertainer ... And he does indeed entertain, but in a way that stimulates rather than simply amuses' - Sunday Telegraph 'His columns were always one of the best things in [the Independent] – funny, argumentative, contrary and stuffed with ideas as well as a big, sympathetic personality' - Philip Hensher, Spectator Emancipation Oxford University Press  
In a stunning follow-up to his much-heralded masterpiece, Kalooki Nights, acclaimed author Howard Jacobson has turned his mordant and uncanny sights on Felix Quinn, a rare-book dealer

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living in London, whose wife Marisa is unfaithful to him. All husbands, Felix maintains, secretly want their wives to be unfaithful to them. Felix hasn't always thought this way. From the moment of his first boyhood rejection, surviving the shattering effects of love and jealousy had been the study of his life. But while he is honeymooning with Marisa in Florida an event occurs that changes everything. In a moment, he goes from dreading the thought of someone else's hands on the woman he loves to thinking about nothing else. Enter Marius into Marisa's affections. And now Felix must wonder if he really is a happy man. The Act of Love is a haunting novel of love and jealousy, with stylish prose that crackles and

razor-sharp dialogue, praised by the London Times as "darkly transgressive, as savage in its brilliance, as anything Jacobson has written." It is a startlingly perceptive, subtle portrait of a marriage and an excruciatingly honest, provocative exploration of sexual obsession. Seriously Funny Bloomsbury Publishing USA  
NOW A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE, STARRING RACHEL WEISZ AND RACHEL MCADAMS By the age of 32, Ronit has left London and transformed her life. She has become a cigarette-smoking, wise-cracking, New York career woman, who is in love with a married man. But when Ronit's father dies she is

called back into the very different world of her childhood, a world she thought she had left far behind. The orthodox Jewish suburb of Hendon, north London is outraged by Ronit and her provocative ways. But Ronit is shocked too by the confrontation with her past. And when she meets up with her childhood girlfriend Esti, she is forced to think again about what she has left behind. From the author of *The Power*, winner of the Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction 2017, Naomi Alderman's *Disobedience* is an insightful and witty novel on the search for love, tolerance and faith. 'Funny, tender and insightful' Guardian 'A wonderful novel . . . rich and fresh and fascinating' Sunday Times