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# The Peppered Moth Margaret Drabble

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**Ted Hughes** HarperCollins  
Based on the bestselling Oxford Companion to English Literature, this is an indispensable, compact guide to all aspects of English literature. For this revised edition, existing entries have been fully updated and 60 new entries have been added on contemporary writers, such as Peter Acroyd, Martin Amis, Toni Morrison, and Jeanette Winterson. Detailed new appendices include a chronology of English literature, and a listing of major literary prize-winners. The Origin of Waves W. W. Norton & Company  
The first new novel in five years from "one of the most versatile and accomplished writers of her generation" —Joyce Carol Oates, *The New Yorker*. Jessica Speight, a young anthropology student in 1960s London, is at

the beginning of a promising academic career when an affair with her married professor turns her into a single mother. Anna is a pure gold baby with a delightful, sunny nature, but it soon becomes clear that she will not be a normal child. As readers are drawn deeper into Jessica's world, they are confronted with questions of responsibility, potential, even age, all with Margaret Drabble's characteristic intelligence, sympathy and wit. Drabble once wrote, "Family life itself, that safest, most traditional, most approved of female choices, is not a sanctuary; it is, perpetually, a dangerous place." Told from the point of view

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of the group of mothers who surround Jess, *The Pure Gold Baby* is a brilliant, prismatic novel that takes us into that place with satiric verve, trenchant commentary and a movingly intimate story of the unexpected transformations at the heart of motherhood.

The Peppered Moth Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

The prize-winning author of *The Dark Flood Rises* offers an “absorbing” portrait of three generations of women—inspired by her own family (*The New York Times Book Review*). In the early 1900s, young Bessie Bawtry grows up in a mining town in South Yorkshire, England. Unusually gifted, she longs to escape a life burdened by unquestioned tradition. She studies patiently, dreaming of the day when she will take the entrance exam for Cambridge and leave her narrow world. A generation later, Bessie’s

daughter Chrissie feels a similar impulse to expand her horizons, which she in turn passes on to her own daughter. Nearly a century after that, Bessie’s granddaughter finds herself listening to a lecture on genetics and biological determinism. She has returned to Breaseborough and wonders at the families who remained in the humble little town where Bessie grew up. Confronted with what would have been her life had her grandmother stayed, she finds herself faced with difficult questions. Is she really so different from the plain South Yorkshire locals? As she soon learns, the past has a way of reasserting itself—not unlike the peppered moth that was once thought to be nearing extinction but is now enjoying a sudden and unexplained resurgence. With *The Peppered Moth*, the acclaimed author of *The Seven Sisters* conjures a captivating work of semi-fiction, grappling with her memory of her own mother

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and the indelible mark of family and heredity.  
The Radiant Way HMH  
From the Golden PEN  
Award – winning author: A  
“ well-written,  
entertaining ” dark comedy  
of a marriage on the rocks in  
1960s London (Joyce Carol  
Oates, The New York  
Times). Emma and David  
Evans seem to have a perfect  
life. He ’ s a handsome and  
successful Welsh actor;  
she ’ s a sometimes model,  
soon-to-be television news  
anchor, and full-time mother.  
But all is not well under the  
surface. She ’ s impatient and  
choked by domesticity; he ’ s  
narcissistic and unfaithful.  
Between the two of them is a  
privately combative marriage  
that has fed their want of  
drama. Then David relocates  
the family from their London  
home to provincial Hereford,  
where he ’ s to star in two

plays during the city ’ s  
festival season. It ’ s here, far  
removed from the highbrow  
stimulation of the city, that  
Emma ’ s resentment of  
David—his long hours, his  
expectations, his ego—finally  
boils over. Bored and lonely,  
she falls into the arms of the  
theater ’ s director, an  
indiscretion that triggers a  
series of surprises neither  
Emma nor David could have  
foreseen. Narrated by a  
complicated, fascinating, and  
fiercely intelligent woman at  
the end of her rope, The  
Garrick Year is “ a witty,  
beautiful novel . . . written  
with extraordinary art ” (The  
New York Times). “ [A]  
romantic novel about actors  
and the theatre and marriage  
and sex and babies . . .  
deliciously bitter . . . so  
alive. ” —The New Yorker  
“ Unsparing . . . a very  
knowing, diverting

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entertainment. ” —Kirkus  
Reviews  
The Pure Gold Baby Allied  
Publishers  
NEW YORK TIMES 100  
NOTABLE BOOKS OF  
2017: ‘ masterly ’  
GUARDIAN BEST  
BOOKS OF THE YEAR:  
'An absolute tour de force'  
Fran may be old but she's  
not going without a fight. So  
she dyes her hair, enjoys  
every glass of red wine,  
drives around the country  
for her job with a housing  
charity and lives in an  
insalubrious tower block  
that her loved ones  
disapprove of. And as each  
of them - her pampered ex  
Claude, old friend Jo,  
flamboyant son Christopher  
and earnest daughter  
Poppet - seeks happiness in  
their own way, what will the  
last reckoning be? Will they  
be waving or drowning

when the end comes? By  
turns joyous and profound,  
darkly sardonic and moving,  
The Dark Flood Rises  
questions what makes a good  
life, and a good death. This  
triumphant, bravura novel  
takes in love, death, sun-  
drenched islands, poetry,  
Maria Callas, tidal waves,  
surprise endings - and new  
beginnings.

The Plays of Margaret Drabble  
Simon and Schuster

This novel goes back through the  
lives of three women, a  
psychoanalyst, an art historian  
and a good woman who all met  
at Cambridge in the 1950s.

The Red Queen

HarperCollins

Barbara Halliwell, on a  
grant at Oxford, receives an  
unexpected package-a  
centuries-old memoir by a  
Korean crown princess. An  
appropriate gift indeed for  
her impending trip to Seoul,  
but Barbara doesn't know

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who sent it. On the plane, she avidly reads the memoir, a story of great intrigue as well as tragedy. The Crown Princess Hyegyong recounts in extraordinary detail the ways of the Korean court and confesses the family dramas that left her childless and her husband dead by his own hand. When a Korean man Barbara meets at her hotel offers to guide her to some of the haunts of the crown princess, Barbara tours the royal courts and develops a strong affinity for everything related to the princess and her mysterious life. Barbara's time in Korea goes quickly, but captivated by her experience and wanting to know more about the princess, she wonders if her life can ever be the way it was before.

At the Pond McClelland & Stewart

The story of an upper-middle-class unwed mother in 1960s London, from a novelist who is “often as meticulous as Jane Austen and as deadly as Evelyn Waugh” (Los Angeles Times). In a newly swinging London, Rosamund Stacey indulges in a premarital sexual encounter—and soon thereafter finds herself pregnant. Despite her fierce independence and academic brilliance, Rosamund is in fact naïve and unworldly, and the choices before her are terrifying. But in the perfection and helplessness of her baby she finds an unconditional love she has never known before—and as she navigates a situation still considered scandalous in her circles, she may discover that motherhood and independence need not be mutually exclusive. From “one of Britain’s most dazzling writers,” the award-winning author of *The Dark Flood Rises*, *The Millstone* captures both a moment in history when women’s lives were changing dramatically and the timeless truths of the female experience (The New York Times)

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Book Review).

A Writer's Britain Canongate Books

Elizabeth Taylor is finally beginning to gain the recognition due to her as one of the best English writers of the postwar period, prized and praised by Sarah Waters and Hilary Mantel, among others. Inheriting Ivy Compton-Burnett 's uncanny sensitivity to the terrifying undercurrents that swirl beneath the apparent calm of respectable family life while showing a deep sympathy of her own for human loneliness, Taylor depicted dislocation with the unflinching presence of mind of Graham Greene. But for Taylor, unlike Greene, dislocation began not in distant climes but right at home. It is in the living room, playroom, and bedroom that Taylor stages her unforgettable dramas of alienation and impossible desire. Taylor 's stories,

many of which originally appeared in *The New Yorker*, are her central achievement.

Here are self-improving spinsters and gossiping girls, war orphans and wallflowers, honeymooners and barmaids, mistresses and murderers.

Margaret Drabble 's new selection reveals a writer whose wide sympathies and restless curiosity are matched by a steely penetration into the human heart and mind.

Room At The Top Oxford University Press, USA Reprint.

Bookman's Tale Penguin UK Selections from England's great writers, describing various sites and scenes, are accompanied by commentary on how those writers have affected our tastes

The Dark Flood Rises BoD - Books on Demand

Although Ted Hughes ended his days as England's beloved poet laureate, his life was dogged by tragedy

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and controversy. In this insightful biography, Feinstein explores an altogether more complex situation, throwing new light on his relationship with his lover Assia Wevill, who later killed herself along with their young daughter. 12 photos. The Concise Oxford Companion to English Literature Thames & Hudson

A Los Angeles Times Best Book of the Year: “ Part social satire, part thriller, and entirely clever ” (Elle). It is a midsummer ’ s evening in the English countryside, and the three grown Palmer children are coming to the end of an enjoyable meal in the company of their partners and offspring. From this pleasant vantage point they play a dinner-party game: What kind of society would

you be willing to accept if you didn ’ t know your place in it? But the abstract question of justice, like all their family conversations, is eventually brought back to the more pressing problem of their eccentric mother, Frieda, the famous writer, who has abandoned them and her old life, and gone to live alone in Exmoor. Frieda has always been a powerful and puzzling figure, a monster mother with a mysterious past. What is she plotting against them now? Has some inconvenient form of political correctness led her to favor her enchanting half-Guyanese grandson? What will she do with her money? Is she really writing her memoirs? And why has she disappeared? Has the dark spirit of Exmoor finally driven her mad? The Witch of Exmoor brilliantly



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interweaves high comedy and personal tragedy, unraveling the story of a family whose comfortable, rational lives, both public and private, are about to be violently disrupted by a succession of sinister, messy events.

“ Leisurely and mischievous, ” it is a dazzling, wickedly gothic tale of a British matriarch, her three grasping children, and the perils of self-absorption (The New Yorker). “ As meticulous as Jane Austen, as deadly as Evelyn Waugh. ” —Los Angeles Times

Angus Wilson HMH Unnatural Death, published in 1927, is the third novel written by Dorothy L. Sayers featuring her aristocratic detective Lord Peter Wimsey. The story begins with a conversation in a restaurant between

Wimsey, his friend Detective Inspector Charles Parker, and a doctor who tells them about a situation he was involved in: an elderly lady, suffering from a slow-acting cancer, died suddenly and unexpectedly with no obvious immediate cause of death. She died intestate, but her great-niece, with whom she was living, was set to inherit the considerable estate. Suspecting something wrong, the doctor demanded an autopsy, which showed nothing unusual, but stirred up such local animosity that the he was forced to abandon his practice.

Wimsey, sensing a mystery, decides to investigate—but his investigation triggers a series of deadly events. One of the delights of the book is the introduction of a new character in Miss Alexandra Climpson, a middle-aged

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spinster whom Wimsey employs as an investigative agent, and whose effusive reports of the gossip she picks up in the town are very amusing. *Unnatural Death* is notable for its inclusion of one clearly lesbian character—a decision unusual in detective fiction at the time—and the very sympathetic treatment by Wimsey of a black character (though offensively racist terms for him are used by others in the book). An adaptation of the book was made for BBC radio in 1975. Ragnarok Knopf Books for Young Readers

Austin Clarke's luminous novel, written in vivid, hypnotic prose, reveals the dislocations of place and the nature of memory and the past. Two elderly Barbadian men, childhood friends who haven't seen each other in fifty years, collide in a snowstorm on a Toronto street. In the warmth of a nearby bar, through the afternoon and into the night, they relate stories, exchange opinions, and share memories of a past in Barbados when, as children, neither could conceive any other place existed for them. As these two men confess to each other their innermost truths, their exploits and their love affairs, one tells the haunting story of a young Chinese woman, the other of the real reason for his visit to Toronto. Infused with pathos and humour, and with an affecting nostalgia for the idea of home, *The Origin of Waves* is a stunning and original novel by one of the country's most gifted writers. [The Seven Sisters](#) Penguin UK

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Divorced and estranged from her grown daughters, Candida Wilton moves to a rundown flat well below her means and finds exhilaration in her self-imposed poverty, during which she confides her thoughts to a computer and makes friends with new peers.

Out With It HMH

“ Powerful . . . It successfully recreates a time and place and the journey of a soul. ” —The New York Times All beginnings are hard—that is the lesson David Lurie learns early and painfully in his life. As a boy in the depression-shadowed Bronx, he must begin to hold his own against neighborhood bullies and the treacherous frailties of his own health. As a young man in a world menaced by a distant, horrifying war, he must begin once more—this time to define a resolute path of personal belief that departs boldly from the tradition of his teachers and his own father, a courageous defender of their people.

Learning how to remember his past as he nourishes the future, David struggles to complete his first long journey into ancient beginnings. “ A major work in every sense. ” —Pittsburgh Press

[A Day in the Life of a Smiling Woman](#) St Martins Press

An insightful and enlightening study of Margaret Drabble's work from the early 1960s to the present day, emphasizing her skill in structuring, narrating and mediating her plot material.

The Waterfall Canongate Books

A mysterious portrait ignites an antiquarian bookseller's search for his lost love.

Guaranteed to capture the hearts of everyone who truly loves books and literature - in particular the golden age of Shakespeare, Jonson and Marlowe - The Bookman's Tale is a sparkling novel and an engrossing exploration of one of literature's most tantalizing mysteries. After the death of his wife, Peter

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Byerly, a young antiquarian bookseller, relocates from the States to the English countryside, where he hopes to rediscover the joys of life through his passion for collecting and restoring rare books. But when he opens an eighteenth-century study on Shakespeare forgeries, he is shocked to find a Victorian portrait strikingly similar to his wife tumble out of its pages, and becomes obsessed with tracking down its origins. As he follows the trail back to the nineteenth century and then to Shakespeare's time, Peter learns the truth about his own past and unearths a book that might prove that Shakespeare was indeed the author of all his plays.

to find a cure for a lifelong struggle with stuttering, and ultimately to embrace the voice that has defined her character. It offers a fresh perspective on the obsession with physical perfection.

The Realms of Gold Harper Collins

A fresh, engaging account of a young woman's journey, first