

Something for the Weekend



Edited by
NATASHA HARDING

ALL MY SECRETS

Sophie McKenzie, £7.99

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EVIE BROWN's world is turned upside down when she learns she's going to inherit £10million – because with that inheritance comes a truth that Evie had never suspected.

As the youngster flounders she's persuaded to go to Lightsea, a mysterious and remote island for troubled teenagers.

But the place only serves up further riddles and, rather than

receiving the help and comfort she had hoped for, Evie is forced to confront further revelations that will change her perceptions on everything she holds dear.

Award-winning author Sophie McKenzie has penned another winner here with a hugely enjoyable tale.



GO SET A WATCHMAN

Harper Lee, £18.99

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IT has been 55 years since the award-winning *To Kill A Mockingbird*, a book that has stood the test of time and flies off the shelves to this day. Famous fans include Victoria Beckham, who enjoyed it so much she named her daughter after the author.

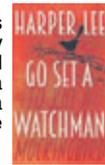
The follow-up, which was actually written first but remained lost for many years, features many of the characters from the original book, but is based some 20 years later.

Scout, who is now known as Jean

Louise, has returned to her Alabama home town from New York to visit her father, Atticus.

While there, she is forced to face some pretty unsavoury issues, causing her to re-evaluate her childhood.

Some of the revelations about Atticus are pretty shocking but, as you'd expect, the book is still a literary masterpiece – and a thoroughly enjoyable one at that.



LIFE OR DEATH

Michael Robotham, £7.99

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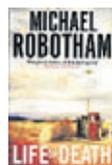
THE story of unlucky Audie Palmer is a cracking read.

Having spent ten years behind bars, fighting for his life as other inmates try to kill him, Audie finally escapes – the day before his official release date.

This is only the start of his quest to honour a promise he had made years earlier.

But with the country on the lookout for him, things soon go from bad to worse.

Gayle Brockerton



My own self-destructive years helped this novel

Says MATT CAIN

WHEN he left his job as Channel 4's culture editor to become an author, the literary world wondered what kind of novel Matt Cain would come up with.

The answer was *Shot Through the Heart*. Not highbrow, but everything a good beach read should be.

Fast-forward a year and Matt, who has interviewed chart-toppers including the Spice Girls and Robbie Williams, is celebrating the release of his second book, *Nothing But Trouble*.

Set around a pop star called Lola Grant it's a fabulous tale of love, lust, friendship and revenge.

And it is the sort of perfect summer read more commonly associated with female writers.

Here Natasha Harding speaks to Matt, 38, about the book and what it is like being a man in what is traditionally a woman's world.

Matt, from London, says: "My new book is a sexy, glamorous thriller about a pop star whose wild, rock 'n' roll lifestyle lands her in a situation where everything she's worked so hard for could come crashing down around her – unless a handsome news correspondent steps in to save the day. I'm writing about the world I used to report on, and wanted to play around with bad behaviour.

"I've had my own self-destructive years, so drew on some of those. I have also witnessed some pretty shocking scenes in my time.

"Most of the characters are slightly damaged and know how to press the self-destruct button. Writing about characters with issues is the best."

Matt, who studied literature at university, is not snobby about the books he reads.

He says: "I didn't necessarily set out to write for women but I wanted to write the kind of books I love reading myself.

"I want them to be fun but have an intelligent plot and be well written."

But there aren't many men out there writing the kind of books Matt is. He says: "I prefer writing for women and it feels very natural to me to explore emotions.

"Men are far more snobby about literature generally. With men, it's all

dicks on the table and 'who's the most intelligent?'

"I'm not getting involved with that. I'm not interested in winning prizes. I want to make people gasp and giggle and connect with the reader."

There is quite a lot of sex in the book and it wouldn't be the same without it. So was it difficult for a gay man to write scenes between men and women?

Matt says: "I was worried at first because I didn't want to write bad sex. But I soon got into it and started having fun typing away in my writing room, inventing these hot heroes. I often sat there giggling to myself."

Matt admits he had tried writing in the past but could not find his "voice".

He says: "Something just clicked with *Shot Through the Heart*.

"Suddenly I had confidence and was able to let myself go. It's been a voyage of discovery and I'm loving it.

"This second book is much more of a thriller but I haven't set out to do something different.

"The plot took over and I got caught up in it."

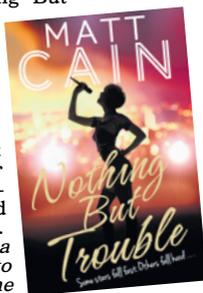
After leaving Channel 4 in 2013, Matt dedicated himself to writing.

He still works as a journalist and has a column for *Attitude* magazine.

He says: "I love what I'm doing now. I had a full-time career for years and I've got a full tank of ideas bursting to come out. I feel so lucky, this is the job I always wanted to do.

"There are so many good writers who don't get that chance. I often remind myself of that."

● **Nothing But Trouble** by Matt Cain is out now.



SECRETS OF THE

LAST NAZI

Iain King, £8.99

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A BRILLIANT but unconventional academic races shadowy agents, a deranged killer and power-mad priests to expose a vast conspiracy.

Meet military historian Myles Munro in this very silly potboiler based on Nazi chiefs' (real) obsession with the occult. Despite clunky exposition, it romps along at a ferocious pace to a suitably bonkers conclusion.

Leave your brain behind.

Charlie Wright



A YEAR OF

MARVELLOUS

Ways Sarah Winman, £16.99

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AN eccentric old woman who lives alone in a remote Cornish creek has nothing but nature for company.

So when a troubled soldier enters her life, Marvellous makes it her mission to "fix" him with stew and stories.

The whimsical narrative should be a joy to read but, after a few chapters, it feels repetitive and clunky – and don't get me started on the awkward sexual references from the characters' pasts. Fifty Shades it ain't.

Jenny Green



THE QUALITY OF

SILENCE

Rosamund Lupton, £14.99

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YASMIN and her deaf daughter Ruby are driving across the wilderness of Alaska in search of Ruby's father.

Yasmin has been told he's dead, but refuses to accept it and remains determined to find him. And as their search goes on it becomes clear someone is following them.

The story is as much about a mother learning to hear her deaf daughter as it is about their physical journey and proves, again, that Rosamund Lupton is a storyteller of class.

