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 Untold Stories

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Stories

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LAYLAH COWAN

Writing Home Faber & Faber
 From one of England's most celebrated writers, a funny and superbly observed novella about the Queen of England and the subversive power of reading. When her corgis stray into a mobile library parked near Buckingham Palace, the Queen feels duty-bound to borrow a book. Discovering the joy of reading widely (from J. R. Ackerley, Jean Genet, and Ivy Compton-Burnett to the classics) and intelligently, she finds that her view of the world changes dramatically. Abetted in her newfound obsession by Norman, a young man from the royal kitchens, the Queen comes to question the prescribed order of the world and loses patience with the routines of her role as monarch. Her new passion for reading initially alarms the palace staff and soon leads to surprising and very funny consequences for the country at large. With the poignant and mischievous wit of *The History Boys*, England's best-loved author Alan Bennett revels in the power of literature to change even the most uncommon reader's life.

Talking Heads Bantam

'Coveney is the only writer who could get under Smith's skin, capturing her steeliness and vulnerability' INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY From her days as a star of West End comedy and revue, Dame Maggie's path has led to international renown and numerous accolades including two Academy Awards. Recently she has been as prominent on our screens as ever, with high-profile roles as the formidable Dowager Countess of Grantham in *DOWNTON ABBEY*, as Professor Minerva McGonagall in the *HARRY POTTER* movie franchise and as the eccentric Miss Shepherd in the film version of *THE LADY IN THE VAN* by Alan Bennett. Paradoxically she remains an enigmatic figure, rarely appearing in public and carefully guarding her considerable talent. Drawing on personal archives, interviews and encounters with the actress, as well as conversations with immediate family and dear friends, Michael Coveney's biography is a captivating portrait of the real Maggie Smith.

The Clothes They Stood Up In Macmillan + ORM
 Philosophy and religion are often seen as opposed, but Cottingham illustrates how they can be reconciled.

Tricks of the Writer's Trade Profile Books

- What were you in life?- In life, as you put it, I was a schoolmaster. The Beth, an old fashioned cradle-to-grave hospital serving a town on the edge of the Pennines, is threatened with closure as part of an NHS efficiency drive. As Dr Valentine and Sister Gilchrist attend to the patients, a documentary crew, eager to capture its fight for survival, follows the daily struggle to find beds on the Dusty Springfield Geriatric Ward. Meanwhile, the old people's choir, in readiness for next week's concert, is in full swing, augmented by the arrival of Mrs Maudsley, aka Pudsey Nightingale. Alan Bennett's *Allelujah!* opened at the Bridge Theatre, London, in July 2018. With an introduction by Alan Bennett.

The Lady in the Van Faber & Faber

** Ebook available for pre-order now -- released 8 July 2020 **

Two brand-new monologues in the Talking Heads series, as seen on BBC1 and iPlayer 'Given the opportunity to revisit the characters from Talking Heads I've added a couple more, both of them ordinary women whom life takes by surprise. They just about end up on top and go on, but without quite knowing how. Still, they're in good company, and at least they've made it into print.' Alan Bennett's twelve Talking Heads are acknowledged masterworks by one of our most highly acclaimed writers. Some thirty years after the original six, Bennett has written *Two Besides*, a pair of monologues. Each, in its way, is a devastating portrait of grief. In *An Ordinary Woman*, a mother suffers the inevitable consequences when she makes life intolerable for herself and her family by falling for her own flesh and blood; while *The Shrine* tells the story behind a makeshift roadside shrine, introducing us to Lorna, bearing witness in her high-vis jacket, the bereft partner of a dedicated biker with a surprising private life. The two new Talking Heads were recorded for the BBC during the exceptional circumstances of coronavirus lockdown in the spring of 2020, directed by Nicholas Hytner and performed by Sarah Lancashire and Monica Dolan. The book contains a substantial preface by Nicholas Hytner and an introduction to each, by Alan Bennett.

Telling Tales Robson

THE WILEY BLACKWELL COMPANION TO CONTEMPORARY BRITISH AND IRISH LITERATURE An insightful guide to the exploration of modern British and Irish literature The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Contemporary British and Irish Literature is a must-have guide for anyone hoping to navigate the world of new British and Irish writing. Including modern authors and poets from the 1960s through to the 21st century, the Companion provides a thorough overview of contemporary poetry, fiction, and drama by some of the most prominent and noteworthy writers. Seventy-three comprehensive chapters focus on individual authors as well as such topics as Englishness and identity, contemporary Science Fiction, Black writing in Britain, crime fiction, and the influence of globalization on British and Irish Literature. Written in four parts, *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Contemporary British and Irish Literature* includes comprehensive examinations of individual authors, as well as a variety of themes that have come to define the contemporary period: ethnicity, gender, nationality, and more. A thorough guide to the main figures and concepts in contemporary literature from Britain and Ireland, this two-volume set: Includes studies of notable figures such as Seamus Heaney and Angela Carter, as well as more recently influential writers such as Zadie Smith and Sarah Waters. Covers topics such as LGBT fiction, androgyny in contemporary British Literature, and post-Troubles Northern Irish Fiction Features a broad range of writers and topics covered by distinguished academics Includes an analysis of the interplay between individual authors and the major themes of the day, and whether an examination of the latter enables us to appreciate the former. The Wiley Blackwell

Companion to Contemporary British and Irish Literature provides essential reading for students as well as academics seeking to learn more about the history and future direction of contemporary British and Irish Literature.

Allelujah! Profile Books

Already a bestseller, this is a wonderfully entertaining collection of Alan Bennett's prose writings. *Writing Home* brings together diaries, reminiscences and reviews to give us a unique and unforgettable portrait of one of England's leading playwrights. As a memoir it covers the production of his very first play, *Forty Years On*, which starred John Gielgud. His television series 'Talking Heads' has become a modern-day classic; as part of the 1960s revue 'Beyond the Fringe' Bennett helped to kick-start the English satire revolution, and has since remained one of our leading dramatists, most recently with *The History Boys* at the National Theatre. At the heart of the book is *The Lady in The Van*, since adapted into a radio play featuring Dame Maggie Smith. It is the true account of Miss Mary Shepherd, a homeless tramp who took up residence in Bennett's garden and stayed for fifteen years. This new edition also includes Bennett's introduction to his Oscar-nominated screenplay for *The Madness of King George* and his more recent diaries.

Four Stories FriesenPress

The childhood memoir of one of Britain's best-loved writers.

The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Contemporary British and Irish Literature Hachette UK

A history of audiobooks, from entertainment & rehabilitation for blinded World War I soldiers to a twenty-first-century competitive industry. Histories of the book often move straight from the codex to the digital screen. Left out of that familiar account are nearly 150 years of audio recordings. Recounting the fascinating history of audio-recorded literature, Matthew Rubery traces the path of innovation from Edison's recitation of "Mary Had a Little Lamb" for his tinfoil phonograph in 1877, to the first novel-length talking books made for blinded World War I veterans, to today's billion-dollar audiobook industry. *The Untold Story of the Talking Book* focuses on the social impact of audiobooks, not just the technological history, in telling a story of surprising and impassioned conflicts: from controversies over which books the Library of Congress selected to become talking books—yes to Kipling, no to Flaubert—to debates about what defines a reader. Delving into the vexed relationship between spoken and printed texts, Rubery argues that storytelling can be just as engaging with the ears as with the eyes, and that audiobooks deserve to be taken seriously. They are not mere derivatives of printed books but their own form of entertainment. We have come a long way from the era of sound recorded on wax cylinders, when people imagined one day hearing entire novels on mini-phonographs tucked inside their hats. Rubery tells the untold story of this incredible evolution and, in doing so, breaks from convention by treating audiobooks as a distinctively modern art form that has profoundly influenced the way we read. Praise for *The Untold Story of the Talking Book* "If audiobooks are relatively new to your world, you might wonder where they came from and where they're going. And for general fans of the intersection of culture and technology, *The Untold Story of the Talking Book* is a fascinating read." —Neil Steinberg, *Chicago Sun-Times* "[Rubery] explores 150 years of the audio format with an imminently accessible style, touching upon a wide range of interconnected topics . . . Through careful investigation of the co-development of formats within the publishing industry, Rubery shines a light on overlooked pioneers of audio . . . Rubery's work succeeds in providing evidence to 'move beyond the reductive debate' on whether audiobooks really count as reading, and establishes the format's rightful place in the literary family." —Mary Burkey,

Booklist (starred review)

House Arrest Random House

Faber Stories, a landmark series of individual volumes, presents masters of the short story form at work in a range of genres and styles. Thinking Betty was in the bath Graham was watching a late-night programme on Channel 4 called Footballers with Their Shirts Off when she unexpectedly came in on the trail of the hairdryer. 'I didn't know you were interested in football,' said Betty. No one must ever find out that Graham is 'not the marrying sort'. Certainly not his wife, or his mother. As sex, blackmail and fanatical tidiness take over the West Yorkshire parish of Alwoodley, an unlikely caper unfolds.

Father! Father! Burning Bright Faber & Faber

First published to celebrate Faber's 90th anniversary, this is the story of one of the world's greatest publishing houses - a delight for all readers who are curious about the business of writing. 'A striking drama.' *SUNDAY TIMES* 'Never less than fascinating.' *DAILY TELEGRAPH* 'This book will fascinate anyone with an interest in twentieth-century literature . . . a treasure trove.' *SCOTSMAN* 'The details here do consistently shine.' *NEW YORK TIMES* 'Ingeniously compiled . . . charming and quirky' *EVENING STANDARD* 'Told in its own words, this is the story of one of the world's greatest publishers, capturing the excitement, hopes and fears of the people who published and wrote the books that line our shelves today. Including archive material from T. S. Eliot, Samuel Beckett, Seamus Heaney, P. D. James, Kazuo Ishiguro and Philip Larkin, this is both a vibrant history and a hymn to the role of literature in all our lives.'

The Rise of the Arabic Book Macmillan + ORM

Adapted by the author from his autobiographical memoir, *The Lady in the Van* tells the story of Miss Mary Shepherd, whom Alan Bennett first came across when she was living in the street near his home in Camden Town. Taking refuge with her van in his garden originally for three months, she ended up staying fifteen years. Funny, touching and unexpectedly spectacular, *The Lady in the Van* marked the return to the stage of one of our leading playwrights. *The Lady in the Van* with Maggie Smith opened at the Queen's Theatre, London, in December 1999.

Habeas Corpus Harvard University Press

An adaptation of the classic novel on the 200th anniversary of Charlotte Brontë's birth. With echoes of the illness and loss that wracked Brontë's own life, both novel and play explore the redemptive power of love and the uncertainty of holding on to it. Lucy Snowe, alone and abandoned, boards a boat in search of purpose. Arriving at an archaeological site digging for the remains of the elusive Lady of Villette, she works alongside the beautiful Gin, the prying Beck, the charming Dr John and the remote Professor Paul, though Lucy remains an outsider. Absorbed in her work to find a cure for the next pandemic to secure humanity's future, can she open herself up to the possibility of love and put the bones of the past behind her?

Erased Yale University Press

As the subtitle indicates, *Bingeing It* is an account of the author's leisure reading between 2016 and 2022, when it was no longer possible to pursue his academic research. The "binges" in question were often a matter of chance--a trip to Italy, a Christmas present, a hospital visit--but they aim to show how and why the books became life-long friends.

Untold Story Faber & Faber

The complete Olivier Award-winning monologue series from one of Britain's most renowned playwrights: "A masterclass in storytelling." —Guardian, UK *Talking Heads* is a classic of contemporary drama. In *Bed Among the Lentils*, a vicar's wife discovers a semblance of happiness with an Indian shop owner. In *A Chip in the Sugar*, a man's life begins to unravel when he

discovers his aging mother has rekindled an old flame. In *A Lady of Letters*, a busybody pays a price for interfering in her neighbor's life. First produced for BBC television in 1988 to great critical acclaim, the *Talking Heads* monologues continue to resonate today with their combination of razor-sharp wit and deeply felt humanity. Over the years they have been performed many times, including on London's West End and at New York City's Minetta Lane Theatre. These extraordinary portraits of ordinary people confirm Alan Bennett's place as one of the most gifted, versatile, and important writers in the English Language.

The Uncommon Reader Profile Books

An unruly bunch of bright, funny sixth-form boys in pursuit of sex, sport and a place at university. A maverick English teacher at odds with the young and shrewd supply teacher. A headmaster obsessed with results; a history teacher who thinks he's a fool. In Alan Bennett's new play, staff room rivalry and the anarchy of adolescence provoke insistent questions about history and how you teach it; about education and its purpose. The *History Boys* premièred at the National in May 2004. 'Nothing could diminish the incendiary achievement of this subtle, deep-wrought and immensely funny play about the value and meaning of education .. In short, a superb, life-enhancing play.' *Guardian*

People Profile Books

A sale? Why not? Release all your wonderful treasures onto the open market and they are there for everyone to enjoy. It's a kind of emancipation, a setting them free to range the world ... a saleroom here, an exhibition there; art, Lady Stacpoole, is a rover. People spoil things; there are so many of them and the last thing one wants is them traipsing through one's house. But with the park a jungle and a bath on the billiard table, what is one to do? Dorothy wonders if an attic sale could be a solution. *People* premieres at the National Theatre, London, in October 2012. As with Alan Bennett's previous two plays, *The History Boys* and *The Habit of Art*, *People* will open in the Lyttelton Theatre in a production directed by the National's artistic director Nicholas Hytner. - How're you doing? - Not sure. - Well why don't you get on the mobile to your dick and find out.

Smut Cambridge University Press

THE SUNDAY TIMES BESTSELLER AND WATERSTONES BEST BOOK OF 2022 'Sparklingly sardonic ... There really is no one like Bennett!' *Independent* 'Filled with elegiac memories and literary gossip ... a major National Treasure' Lynn Barber 4 March. HMQ pictured in the paper at an investiture wearing gloves, presumably as a precaution against Coronavirus. But not just gloves; these are almost gauntlets. I hope they're not the thin end of a precautionary wedge lest Her Majesty end up swathed in protective get-up such as is worn at the average crime scene. 20 March. With Rupert now working from home my life is much easier, as I get regular cups of tea and a lovely hot lunch. A year in and out of lockdown as experienced by Alan Bennett. The diary takes us from the filming of *Talking Heads* to thoughts on Boris Johnson, from his father's short-lived craze for family fishing trips, to stair lifts, junk shops of old, having a haircut, and encounters on the local park bench. A lyrical afterword describes the journey home to Yorkshire from King's Cross station via fish and chips on Quebec Street, past childhood landmarks of Leeds, through Coniston Cold, over the infant River Aire, and on.

The Complete Talking Heads Routledge

Alan Bennett reads all four parts of his highly-acclaimed 'Untold Stories.' He recounts stories about his family life and his childhood and schooldays, and gives his views on such topics as nature, religion, arts, and the class system.

The Habit of Art Random House

Since May 1966 when Ian Brady and Myra Hindley were sentenced to life imprisonment at Chester Assizes the British

public has been absorbed and horrified by the Moors Murders. Ian Brady has often been aptly described as 'the most evil man alive' or 'the Daddy of the Devils', while Myra Hindley, Britain's first female serial killer, became the most hated woman in Britain. Here is the definitive account, drawing on exclusive, never-before-seen material. It changes forever our understanding of the Moors couple and their heinous crimes. Why did they do it? What actually happened? Unlikely as it may appear to those detectives,

psychiatrists, authors, criminologists, journalists and the victims' families, who have all sought in their own ways for decades to discover it, this book is possibly as near as we shall ever get to understanding how the victims died. It proves beyond question that the parents of the victims were right all along in their claims about Hindley's part in the murders. Did Brady give an account to anyone of his life, Myra Hindley and their crimes before he died? Yes, he did - here it is.