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The Greek Prime Minister Eleftherios Venizelos was one of the stars of the Peace Conference, impressing many of the Western delegates, already possessed of a romantic view of ‘the grandeur that was Greece’. The Paris Peace Conferences were where the modern Near East, with all its problems of competing nationalisms and ethnic divisions, was created, and Venizelos’s Greece was the key player in this process.

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by Jonathan Clements

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by David Watson

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Translated by John Brownjohn

When his beloved wife takes a work assignment in Paris, Max is left alone for the first time in decades. In her absence, he finds companionship – and antagonism – in the eccentric band of regulars who drink at his neighbourhood bar, revelling equally in small pleasures and trivial squabbles. This contemplative novel is a story of trust, longevity and love.

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This Place Holds No Fear by Monika Held
Translated by Anne Posten

Summoned from Vienna to Frankfurt to testify at the Auschwitz trials, Heiner meets Lena, who is working at the court as a translator. As the trial progresses, Heiner bears witness to his experiences of being deported to Auschwitz as a young man. He and Lena begin a cautious love affair, but both are unsure whether their love can be strong enough to cope with his trauma.

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Translated by Stephen Brown

It is 2003, and Paul Arimond is serving as a paramedic in Afghanistan. The twenty-four-year-old has no illusions of becoming a hero. A meditative, moving novel that shows a new side to the conflict in Afghanistan and the all-too-human costs of war. It asks questions about what it truly means to fight for freedom.

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Translated by Anthea Bell

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**The Decision** by Britta Böhler
Translated by Jeannette K. Ringold

This intriguing novel follows German author Thomas Mann during three crucial days in 1936.

‘A splendid novel [...] Britta Bohler has written an important book, a beautiful creation. *The Decision* stands as a remarkable beginning of a literary career.’

—New York Journal of Books


**Hero** by Root Leeb
Translated by Robert E. Goodwin

Nele is quiet, an introvert. That reticence carries over to her relationship with her father, Hero, until she realises he is terminally ill. But he entrusts her with a secret, a cardboard box whose contents are a mystery and tells her to distribute its contents to her mother and siblings, but only after his death.

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A dead man hangs from the portal of St Paul’s Chapel in Damascus. He was a Muslim officer and he was murdered. But when Detective Barudi sets out to interrogate the man’s mysterious widow, the secret police takes the case away from him. Barudi continues to investigate clandestinely and discovers the murderer’s motive: a blood feud between the Mushtak and Shahin clans, reaching back to the beginnings of the 20th century. And, linked to it, a love story that can have no happy ending, for reconciliation has no place within the old tribal structures.

‘...richly detailed characters working through real situations, characters whose inherited wounds the reader comes to care deeply about. Each is vividly drawn, with quiet and acute intelligence.’ — *Guardian*

‘At last, the Great Arab Novel – appearing without ifs, buts, equivocations, metaphorical camouflage or hidden meanings….. Despite its length, the book is a compulsive read.’ — *Independent*

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The Barbarian Spring by Jonas Luscher
Translated by Peter Lewis

‘A humorous and convincing satire of the ridiculous excesses of those responsible for the financial crisis that began in 2008’ — *The New York Times*

‘Slim and sharp as a dagger, Barbarian Spring is a macabre spoof of affluent Europeans and the 2008 financial crash. ...superbly translated from German.’ — *Wall Street Journal*


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The Dark Side of Love by Rafik Schami
Translated by Anthea Bell

A dead man hangs from the portal of St Paul’s Chapel in Damascus. He was a Muslim officer and he was murdered. But when Detective Barudi sets out to interrogate the man’s mysterious widow, the secret police takes the case away from him. Barudi continues to investigate clandestinely and discovers the murderer’s motive: a blood feud between the Mushtak and Shahin clans, reaching back to the beginnings of the 20th century. And, linked to it, a love story that can have no happy ending, for reconciliation has no place within the old tribal structures.

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*The Tables of the Law* by Thomas Mann

Translated by Marion Faber and Stephen Lehmann

Foreword by Michael Wood

Thomas Mann recounts the early life of Moses, his preparations for leading his people out of Egypt, the exodus itself, the incidents at the oasis Kadesh, and the engraving of the stone tables of the law at Sinai. In Mann's ironic and telling style, this most dramatic and significant story in the Hebrew Bible takes on a new (and at times, witty) life and meaning.

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**The Colonel** by Mahmoud Dowlatabadi  
Translated by Tom Patterdale

A pitch black, rainy night. The Colonel is immersed in thought. Memories are storming in. Memories of his wife. Memories of the great patriots of the past. There is a knock on the door. Two young policemen have come to summon the Colonel to collect the tortured body of his daughter.

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**Thirst** by Mahmoud Dowlatabadi  
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On a strategic hill overlooking the front line, Iraqi and Iranian soldiers battle for access to a water tank. They are delirious with thirst. Told in a kaleidoscopic style that weaves between the ongoing battle and the struggles of the novelist himself, *Thirst* is rich with dark humour, surreal images and maintaining humanity and identity in the midst of dehumanising conflict.

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**Ascension to Death** by Mamdouh Azzam  
Translated by Max Weiss

Set against the backdrop of a conservative Druze region of southern Syria, this is the tragic story of the orphan Salma, who falls in love with a boy from her village but is forced into an arranged marriage. One of the most beloved Syrian novels of our time, it is a dark, inventive, and unflinchingly honest look at both the best and the worst to be found in human nature.

**The Calligrapher’s Secret** by Rafik Schami
Translated by Anthea Bell

Warmly observed, richly detailed, and often bold and exciting, Schami’s fine portrait of life in Damascus, in the middle of the 20th century is filled with a compelling set of characters.

‘The Calligrapher’s Secret is a celebration of diversity’
— *Times Literary Supplement*

‘A novel to be savoured’ — *Publishers Weekly*

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**The Secret Life of Saeed the Pessoptimist**
by Emile Habiby
Translated by Salma Khadra Jayyusi and Trevor LeGassick

Named as one of the top 10 novels set in the Middle East by *The Guardian*

Combining fact and fantasy, tragedy and comedy, Habiby’s story of a Palestinian who becomes a citizen of Israel is a contemporary classic. Saeed is the comic hero, the luckless fool, whose tale of aggression and resistance, terror and heroism, reason and loyalty typifies the hardships and struggles of Arabs in Israel. An informer for the Zionist state, his stupidity, candour and cowardice make him more of a victim than a villain; but in a series of tragi-comic episodes he is gradually transformed from a disaster-prone, gullible collaborator into a Palestinian. The author brings his anger and sorrow to a delightfully satirical and unconventional novel.

‘Highly accomplished ... uses the humorous Arabic anecdotal narrative in telling the story of the Palestinians’ — *Independent*

‘Shows Palestinians in all their human frailty, rather than as idealised political stereotypes’ — *Guardian*
Hanan is a woman with secrets, even from herself. Forced into a loveless and barren marriage. She lives secluded by affluence. But when a spirited young girl from the Damascus slums enters her service, Hanan glimpses an enticing but forbidden world. No sooner are her awakening desires realized, however, than her life begins to unravel.

**Damascus Nights** by Rafik Schami
Translated by Philip Boehm

In the classical Arab tradition of tale-telling, this magical book celebrates the power of storytelling, delightfully transformed for modern sensibilities by an award-winning author. Set in Damascus in 1959, the novel alternates the real lives of our storytellers with stories from the distant past.

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**Sarmada** by Fadi Azzam
Translated by Adam Talib

Set in the Druze region of southern Syria, Sarmada is a declaration of love for tolerance and for the peaceful coexistence of the many religious groups that live in close proximity. Ruthless and full of fire, this story is a concentrated collection of poetry, irony and satire all told in a language and voice that is entirely unique.

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**Cinnamon** by Samar Yazbek
Translated by Emily Dandy

Hanan is a woman with secrets, even from herself. Forced into a loveless and barren marriage. She lives secluded by affluence. But when a spirited young girl from the Damascus slums enters her service, Hanan glimpses an enticing but forbidden world. No sooner are her awakening desires realized, however, than her life begins to unravel.


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Berlin Cantata
by Jeffrey Lewis

Thirteen voices tell a story not only of atonement, but of discovery, loss, identity, intrigue, mystery, insanity, sadomasochism and lies. At its centre is a country house owned successively by Jews, Nazis and Communists. In the country house, an American girl seeks a hidden past. In the girl, a local reporter seeks redemption. In the reporter, an imposter seeks exposure.

£8.99 | 237pp | Pbk | B-Format with flaps | 978-1-907822-43-8

The Meritocracy Quartet
by Jeffrey Lewis

A four-novel sequence and magisterial meditation on Lewis’s generation and where it has led America, from the 1960s to the turn of the century. Published together as originally intended for the first time, the quartet are set against the backdrop of four decades of a changing contemporary American landscape, with characters sweeping in and out of the narrative, reflecting the passage of time and the rise of different social-cultural ideals.

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The Inquisitor's Diary
by Jeffrey Lewis

Mexico City, 1649. The Spanish Inquisition holds sway over the capital. Fray Alonso is the most zealous advocate of their mission. Outmanoeuvred by his rivals in a struggle for power, he is forced to leave the city. An unlikely friendship with a captured heretic will prove the catalyst for a revolution of his beliefs.

£9.99 | 180pp | Pbk | B-Format | 978-1-908323-61-3
Bealport: A Novel of a Town
by Jeffrey Lewis

Bealport, Maine, is one of the forgotten towns of America, a place that all too often seems to have its best days behind it. Lewis takes us inside the town, revealing its secrets, acknowledging its problems, and honoring its ambitions. Brilliantly deploying a large cast from all walks of life, he reveals small town America in the early twenty-first century through the interwoven secrets and desires of its residents, and through them delivers a striking portrait of America at a moment of national uncertainty.

‘A hugely satisfying read’
— Nick Curtis, Evening Standard

‘In the small town of Bealport, Maine, Jeffrey Lewis has rendered a sharp and fascinating “Our Town,” the community captured in its rough simplicity and broody with personal secrets. In deft command of their lives’ interconnectedness, Lewis roves amongst Bealport’s residents, entwined and reliant as only those living in a very small town can be, an attentive and welcoming storyteller with a fine Old New England sensibility’
— David Milch, creator of Deadwood

‘Comprising short vignettes, the book aims to capture to character and consciousness of Bealport itself, flitting between individual lives, mock sociological overviews and the commentary of a Greek chorus of characters who meet at McDonald’s for their pre-shift breakfast. . . . The portraits of the townspeople are endearing, drawn in well-chosen, economical details . . . The story is tightly and neatly constructed, and the hermetic nature of Bealport is deeply appealing, drenched in sympathetic nostalgia, folksy charm and pithy one-liners’
— Times Literary Supplement
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