SHORT BOOKS

Autumn 2010
First, a questionnaire.

Are you:

Aged between 35 and 55?

Acutely aware that life hasn’t panned out for you quite the way you thought it would when you were 18?

Scared of cancer?

Even more scared of death?

Planning your retirement, even though you know it’s going to be a wasteland of impoverished misery?

Nervous of all the young people in your office?

A lot happier when you’ve had a couple of glasses of wine?

Okay, half a bottle?

Getting divorced?

Consoling friends who are getting divorced?

Having, or considering having, an affair?

Having, or considering having, an affair with friends who are getting divorced?

Stuck with a tattoo you hate?

Tired. Just really, really tired?

And depressed?

Worrying about what all those drugs you took when you were younger are going to do to you?

Aware that The Beatles were only in their late twenties when they split up. They’d made all those records – records that changed the world. And what have you achieved? What?

If you’ve answered ‘yes’ to more than half of these questions, turn to page 8...
Can our personalities be taken away from us? Are we more than just a sum of our memories? What exactly is the soul?

Three years ago, Andrea Gillies, a writer and mother of three, took on the care of her mother-in-law Nancy, who was in the middle stages of Alzheimer’s disease. This newly extended family moved to a big Victorian house on a headland in the far, far north of Scotland, where the author failed to write a novel and Nancy, her disease accelerated by change, began to move out of the rational world and into dementia’s alternative reality.

This book is a journal of life in this wild location, in which Gillies tracks Nancy’s unravelling grasp on everything that we think of as ordinary, and interweaves her own brilliantly cogent investigations into the way Alzheimer’s works. For the family at the centre of this drama, the learning curve was steeper and more interesting than anyone could have imagined.

Andrea Gillies lives in St Andrews with her family and is now writing a novel. Keeper won the inaugural Wellcome Trust Book Prize 2009 – an award set up to honour science writing in popular literature.

‘Important and moving’
The Times

‘A wonderful book – honest, upsetting, tender, sometimes angry, often funny – which takes us on a journey into dementia and explores what it means to be human’ Deborah Moggach

‘Terrific, terrifying, absolutely powerful in every choice of word, every sentence... completely unflinching’
Quentin Cooper

‘Outstanding’
Alzheimer’s Research Trust

‘Deeply moving’
Daily Mail

‘Intelligently written and impossible to classify’
TLS

Memoir
1st July
320pp
£8.99
B format paperback
978-1-906021-99-3
UK & Commonwealth
ex Canada: Short Books
Foreign rights:
Greene & Heaton
Jeremy Keeling first met Amy, an abandoned orang-utan, when he was looking after the private menagerie of music impresario Gordon Mills. Amy had been born to an orang-utan with no maternal instincts and Jeremy, feeling a connection with the rejected primate, hand-reared her. A friendship was forged that would become the defining relationship of both their lives.

One day in 1984, when Jeremy was driving along with one-year-old Amy sitting beside him in the passenger seat, he fell asleep at the wheel and caused a horrific car crash. The first policemen on the scene were staggered to see amidst the wreckage of the upturned car, a hairy, non-human hand cradling Jeremy’s head, keeping it clear of the glass and twisted metal: Amy had saved his life.

For Jeremy, it was to be a long convalescence, but three years later he finally found a way of repaying his debt to Amy, when he met Jim Cronin, a tough-talking primate-lover from the Bronx, who shared his vision of creating a sanctuary for abused and abandoned monkeys.

Pooling their meagre resources the two men took on a derelict pig farm in Dorset and over the next twenty years, slowly transformed it into a 65-acre, cage-less sanctuary for beleaguered primates, rescued from poachers and scientists on daring raids all over the world. Monkey World is now internationally famous and attracts some 800,000 visitors a year.

This book is a story of high-wire adventure, of grit and determination and at its heart an inspiring and life-changing friendship between one man and his ape.

Jeremy Keeling is the Animal Director and co-founder of Monkey World in Dorset.

Jeremy & Amy is the first book to tell the story behind Monkey World, which has 800,000 visitors a year. The park has a database of 30,000 adoptive parents and the television series, Monkey Life, is shown in 87 countries. It has run for 12 years – first on ITV, more recently on Channel Five – during which time Jeremy has become a cult hero around the world.

Natural History/ Autobiography
1st July
320pp
£17.99
Royal hardback with colour plate section
978-1-906021-98-6
World rights:
Short Books
Deborah Hutton’s discovery that the niggling cough which had been troubling her for a couple of months was actually an aggressive lung cancer marked the beginning of a brand-new learning curve – a personal odyssey that taught her to let go of her super-competent I-can-handle-it-myself persona and gratefully accept the huge amount of help beamed at her by her close-knit family and “world class” network of friends and neighbours.

From her own experience and out of her conversations with fellow members of the “Cancer Club” comes this anthology of supremely practical examples of ways in which friends and family, often themselves reeling from the shock of the diagnosis and feeling just as helpless and at a loss to know what to do, can make a real, substantial difference.

“What can I do to help?” you ask. Well, stand by, because the answer is “Plenty”.

**Deborah Hutton** was a journalist for 25 years, writing for most of the country’s major glossy magazines and newspapers – from *Vogue*, *Elle*, *Marie Claire* and the *Mail on Sunday’s You magazine* to *The Observer*, *The Guardian* and *The Sunday Times*. This was her sixth book. She lived in north London with her husband, photographer and director, Charlie Stebbings, and their four children, Archie, Romilly, Clemmie and Freddie.

‘The great strength of this anthology is that it gives clear and supremely practical guidance to the family and friends of PWC (People With Cancer), who long to do something to help but don’t know how to go about it.’

The Spectator

‘A brilliant and unprecedented insight for the four million of us who live with, or around, one of Britain’s 270,000 new cancer patients each year.’

Jon Snow
If you’ve answered ‘yes’ to more than half of the questions at the front of this catalogue, then congratulations, you are officially experiencing midlife, that is, the autumn years – the beginning of the end.

Middle age is in many ways crueller than old age. It strikes while your faculties are intact. You know time is running out, but there’s still so much to do, so much clutter to sort through. You’re exhausted from the effort of managing relationships, bringing up children, holding down a job etc, yet you still have ambitions...

Do not despair! Covering everything from Boden and Blogging, Dinner Parties and Divorce, to Radio 4, Rye Bread and Ikea, Welcome to Mid-life is your very own guide to getting through the middle years more gracefully. Its aim is to make you feel less alone during this testing time. It will make you laugh. It may at times even be genuinely helpful.

John O’Connell worked for years – far, far too long – at the London listings magazine Time Out, where he was Books Editor. Since being made redundant on the grounds that ‘no-one really reads books anymore’, he has been writing, mostly about books, for The Times, The Guardian, New Statesman and The National. He is the author of I Told You I Was Ill: Adventures in Hypochondria (Short Books, 2005). He is 37 and lives in south London with his wife and two children.

INCLUDING...

Products that middle-aged home-owners think they need – breadmaker, Cath Kidston ironing board cover, slow cooker, proper wallpaper, really expensive speakers

Things you really should have thrown out by now – joss sticks, bong, posters in clip frames, cheap Ikea sofa, lava lamps

Most preoccupying financial worry – all your friends having more money than you

Grooming must-dos – flossing; plucking; dyeing; plumping (something to do with moisturiser and collagen); and masking (wearing enough foundation not to scare the postman)

Food you should have learnt to like by now – olives, oysters, haggis, herbal tea, salty liquorice, proper martinis, real ale, rare steak, kale

Food you really shouldn’t be eating any more – Creme Eggs™, Pickled Onion, Monster Munch, Slush Puppies, 99 flakes

Key midlife warning signs – National Trust ‘membership’; interest in genealogy, history; self-improvement eg desire to learn new language; renewed enthusiasm for games – taking up bridge, anger at Cluedo redesign; therapy; sheds (and bolt-holes in general); knitting; gardening; keeping chickens and bees, etc.

...AND MUCH MORE
Everyone’s life will have been touched by a moment of sporting heroism. Whether it was Ellen MacArthur’s triumphant finish off the French coast in 2005, or Bobby Charlton’s long-range goal that transformed England’s fortunes against Mexico in 1966, we have all witnessed heroic acts – or indeed moments of epic failure and pain – that have changed our mortal world, and have lifted us, even if only briefly, out of ourselves.

In this gripping new book, Simon Barnes brings together his 50 sporting heroes of the last 50 years and looks at what it is that elevates them to a state of grace and greatness. The world of sport is filled with record breakers and medal winners, individuals who have in their way excelled. What Barnes does here is to identify that extra element, that special alchemy that sets these 40 men, 7 women (and 3 horses) apart and places them in their own race – the race of heroes.

Simon Barnes is the multi-award-winning chief sportswriter for The Times. He is also a novelist, nature writer and horseman, and the author of a dozen books, including the bestselling How to be a Bad Birdwatcher and The Meaning of Sport (Short Books). He lives in Suffolk with his family.

“...You might say that the provision of heroes is the basic point of sport. If sport didn’t provide heroes, sport wouldn’t command our imaginations.”

Non-fiction/Sport
7th October
320pp
£20
Royal hardback
with colour photographs
978-1-907595-01-1
UK and Commonwealth
ex Canada: Short Books
US & Foreign:
Capel & Land

BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF
THE MEANING OF SPORT
TIM WILLIS

NIGEL DEMPSTER & THE DEATH OF DISCRETION

The life and legacy of the world’s greatest gossip

If there is any one person responsible for the birth of celebrity culture, it is the late, great gossip columnist Nigel Patton Dempster (1941-2007).

From the early sixties to the mid-eighties as the editor of “Dempster’s Diary” on the *Daily Mail*, Dempster was the man perfectly placed and qualified to record – and accelerate – the end of the age of deference. For many years, for many people, Dempster was the *Daily Mail*. His diary, with its scurrilous revelations about the great, the good, and the not-so-good, was the only page to read.

In his kipper ties and natty blazers, he brought a raffish sparkle to a dull decade, exposing the infidelities of Harold Pinter and Lady Antonia Fraser or James Goldsmith and Annabel Birley, paying tipsters like the bouffant Lord Lichfield with crates of champagne, and sometimes breaking stories of national importance – the collapse of Princess Margaret’s marriage, the resignation of Harold Wilson.

But, for all his convivial charm, his canny ability to infiltrate the smart set, Dempster led a rather strange, lonely life, marred by broken relationships and an on-off battle with drinking. In this riveting book, Tim Willis charts Dempster’s bibulous journey through old Fleet Street and society as a tragi-comic romp. In so doing, he provides a portrait of an age.

Tim Willis is a freelance writer and editor. He has worked for most of Britain’s national newspapers and some of its glossier magazines. He is the author of *Madcap: The half-life of Syd Barret* (Short Books, 2002) and *Torn Apart* (Short Books, 2005)

Nigel Dempster was a saint neither in public nor private. But he was a phenomenon, of a type now extinct. And through his eyes we can view the world – long swept away – that he broached, moved in and reported on. Here, titles commanded respect, white tie was worn at balls and drinking and driving was as much a challenge as a crime. The indiscretions of the Royal Family could not be noised abroad without damaging national stability. And the lower orders were kept behind the green baize door – until Dempster threw it open.

‘Yes I’m trivial. But life’s trivial’

Nigel Dempster

Biography
7th October
304pp
£16.99
Royal hardback
978-1-906021-84-9
World rights:
Short Books
Crimson China

Betsy Tobin

On a freezing night in February, a woman wades into the waters of Morecambe Bay in a drunken bid to commit suicide. Braced for death, she finds herself instead saving a man’s life – a young Chinese cockle picker, one of the only survivors of a tragic mass drowning. For Wen – now missing, presumed dead – Angie provides an unexpected sanctuary. They share neither language nor experience, but she agrees to let him stay with her and ‘disappear’. Within a short time their unlikely pairing blossoms into something darkly passionate.

But Wen’s past soon catches up with him. He is still in debt to the snakeheads who brought him out of China. And when his sister, Lili, travels to Britain in search of his memory, she unwittingly seals his fate.

Crimson China is a novel that traps the reader at the outset, shining a light on a tragic, hidden world that runs in parallel to our own. It is a story of identity and culture, of the irrepressibility of the human spirit, and the powerful undertow of love.

Betsy Tobin was born in the American Midwest and moved to England in 1989. She is the author of three other novels, Bone House, The Bounce and Ice Land. She lives in London with her husband and four children.

Fiction
4th November
288pp
£14.99
Demy hardback
978-1-907595-04-2
World English:
Short Books
Translation rights:
Lutyens and Rubenstein

Praise for Betsy Tobin’s Ice Land
‘Tobin’s world pulses with subversion and unexpected passion.’

Telegraph
‘Triumphant’

Time Out
‘A lyrically written epic’

Sunday Telegraph