
Read Free The Secret Diary Of Hendrik Groen 83 Years Old

If you ally habit such a referred **The Secret Diary Of Hendrik Groen 83 Years Old** book that will offer you worth, acquire the unconditionally best seller from us currently from several preferred authors. If you want to hilarious books, lots of novels, tale, jokes, and more fictions collections are as well as launched, from best seller to one of the most current released.

You may not be perplexed to enjoy every ebook collections The Secret Diary Of Hendrik Groen 83 Years Old that we will entirely offer. It is not re the costs. Its more or less what you habit currently. This The Secret Diary Of Hendrik Groen 83 Years Old, as one of the most on the go sellers here will completely be in the course of the best options to review.

B42HVY - BRICE DECKER

Professor Frederick Lothian, retired engineer, world expert on concrete and connoisseur of modernist design, has quarantined himself from life by moving to a retirement village. Surrounded and obstructed by the debris of his life, he is determined to be miserable, but is tired of his existence and of the life he has chosen. When a series of unfortunate incidents forces him and his neighbour, Jan, together, he begins to realise the damage done by the accumulation of a lifetime's secrets and lies, and to comprehend his own shortcomings. Finally, Frederick Lothian has the opportunity to build something meaningful for the ones he loves. Humorous, poignant and galvanising, this is a novel about all kinds of extinction - natural, racial, national and personal - and what we can do to prevent them.

A joyful novel full of humanity from the author of *Soft in the Head* - a July 2016 Indie Next pick. Saved from drowning in Paris's River Seine, a sixty-something misanthrope finds himself stuck in a hos-

pital bed for six weeks while he recovers. As he looks back on his life, the good and the bad, he makes some unexpected new acquaintances, and just when he thought life had no more surprises in store for him, he finds out he was wrong....

Eleven-year-old Isabel is a "plain old" girl living in Provincetown, Massachusetts, who believes that she is destined to accomplish something special. When her fifth-grade class goes on a whale-watch field trip, something amazing happens: Dozens of different species of whales surround the boat, bumping the deck and sending Isabel flying into the ocean. Isabel is shocked to hear the whales speaking to her—she is a mermaid, they tell her, a "Chosen One" who has the ability to turn from a human into a whale and back again. She is destined to live among the whales long enough to learn their ways, and teach them about the human world. Living among her pod is fun, at first, but Isabel has an important mission. She will change the whales' future forever, and learn a lot about herself in the process.

Eighty-five-year-old Hendrik Groen is fed up to his false teeth with coffee mornings and bingo. _____ Along with fellow members of the Old-But-Not-Dead Club, he embarks on a wild spree of octogenarian anarchy. But the home's director will not stand for any more drunken bar crawls, illicit fireworks or geriatric romance. The good name of the care home will not be disgraced. But when Hendrik learns of a plan to close the home down he realises life outside it could be much worse. He and the gang must stop the closure before it's too late. Or drop dead trying . . . _____ 'A joy to read. An entertaining and uplifting story of a man in the winter of his days' John Boyne, Irish Times 'Highly entertaining, utterly convincing. A delightful and touching saga of one man's way of coping with old age'- Daily Express 'Terrific. This geriatric Adrian Mole made me laugh' Fanny Blake, Woman and Home 'A funny but also touching diary praised for its wit and realism' BBC Radio 4 Front Row

Webster College: an elite New England campus and a world of learning where creativity and inclusiveness are the presiding principles. Naomi Roth, a feminist scholar, is named to the coveted position of Webster's president. When a student protest materializes, Naomi initially supports the movement, feeling proud and protective of the protesters, her own daughter Hannah among them. But the protest begins to fester, attracting students from other institutions and media. Attention begins to focus on one charismatic student, a Palestinian immigrant named Omar, and both the tension on campus and the essential conflicts in Naomi's personal life begin to overwhelm her until she finds herself facing an impossible and ultimately tragic conflict. The Devil and Webster is shot

through with caustic comedy, and yet the Faustian notes are a persistent reminder that the possibility of corruption - personal or institutional - remains our persistent companion, however good our intentions might be.

'Sometimes it feels like I might be the only person awake in the whole country. People might find that a lonely thought. Not me...' As the rest of the world sleeps, the Gritterman goes out to work. Through the wind and the snow and the freezing cold, in the blue-black hours when time slips away, he grits the paths and the pavements and the roads. For him, there is romance in the winter and comfort in his purpose. But what would a life without gritting mean? A song for the unsung hero, this is a bittersweet story about stoicism, dignity and a man leaving behind the work that he loves. It is accompanied by the author's own illustrations.

A #1 international bestseller in the vein of Fredrik Backman's *A Man Called Ove*: a funny and tender-hearted tale about friendship, love, and an old man who is young at heart. Technically speaking, Hendrik Groen is....elderly. But at age 83 1/4, this feisty, indomitable curmudgeon has no plans to go out quietly. Bored of weak tea and potted geraniums, exasperated by the indignities of aging, Hendrik has decided to rebel - on his own terms. He begins writing an exposé: secretly recording the antics of day-to-day life in his retirement home, where he refuses to take himself, or his fellow "inmates," too seriously. With an eccentric group of friends, he founds the wickedly anarchic Old-But-Not-Dead Club, and he and his best friend, Evert, gleefully stir up trouble, enraging the home's humorless director and turning themselves into unlikely heroes. And when a sweet and sassy widow moves in next door, he pol-

ishes his shoes, grooms what's left of his hair, and determines to savor every ounce of joy in the time he has left, with hilarious and tender consequences. A bestselling phenomenon that has captured imaginations around the world, *The Secret Diary of Hendrik Groen* is inspiring, charming, and laugh-out-loud funny with a deep and poignant core: a page-turning delight for readers of any age.

"What if the whales had knowledge of an upcoming disaster, and we didn't? What if the whales decided they had to warn us? What if there was just one human being in the world the whales could turn to who would know what to do? A tsunami is coming to the East Coast of America--and it's up to two brave teens to find a way to sound the alarm, so that a catastrophic disaster can be averted in time. Along the way, Isabel and Jessaloup must learn to understand, and accept, the differences between their two opposite worlds - the ocean and dry land - in order to discover the deep, essential bonds that connect them"--Page 4 of cover.

With all his family and friends gone, one-hundred-year-old Murray McBride is looking for a reason to live. He finds it in Jason Cashman, a ten-year-old boy with a terminal heart defect and a list of five things he wants to do before he dies. Together, they race against the limited time each has left, ticking off wishes one by one. Along the way, Murray remembers what it's like to be young, and Jason fights for the opportunity to grow old. But when tragedy strikes, their worlds are turned upside-down, and an unexpected gift is the only thing that can make Jason's final wish come true.

"Published in 2017 by arrangement with Grand Central, a division of Hachette

Book Group, Inc."--Title page verso.

Chosen by *The Observer* as a Fiction Pick for 2016 and described as a 'scintillating novel of ideas', *Feeding Time* is a debut like no other: a blast of rage against the dying of the light. Dot is losing the will to live. Tristan is sick of emptying bedpans. Cornish spends entire days barricaded in his office. And Ruggles... well. Ruggles is damn well going to escape those Nazi villains and get back to active duty. The mix is all the more combustible since Dot, Tristan, Cornish and Ruggles are all under the same roof - that of a rapidly declining old people's home called Green Oaks. There's going to be an explosion. It's going to be messy. And nobody knows who will pick up the pieces.

The classic text of the diary Anne Frank kept during the two years she and her family hid from the Nazis in an Amsterdam attic is a powerful reminder of the horrors of war and an eloquent testament to the human spirit.

Ruby Holt is no stranger to hardship. Having lost the menfolk in her family to the war and her husband to the bottle, she is left to fend for herself and her children. That is until a woman named Kenna appears in the Ford, an arrival so surprising that time seems to slow as her extravagant possessions are carted to her place up the hill. Ruby finds a friend in Kenna, and the two outsiders find a sense of family in each other, spending the warm summers preparing for brutal winters and celebrating the world's small pleasures; a serviceberry pie, a beautiful traveling suit, a poem recitation by the fire. But just when Ruby finds a way to carve out her own bit of happiness in the Ford, a love triangle and the revelation of sordid details from someone's past threaten to tear this family apart.

Fiction. Translated from the Dutch by Su-

san Ridder. *THE INSTITUTE* is a beautifully written boarding school novel about a boy who is searching for his identity and a sense of security. It is both hilarious and moving, and paints a frank picture of the 1970s, when 'everything had to be tried out.' Otto Iking is an outsider, at home as well as at the boarding school for the blind, but he is also an observer. Otto looks at the world around him with an unpitiful sense of humour. He observes the other children as well as the carers and teachers, who aim to prepare their pupils for the able-bodied world which 'can be very tough.' He discovers his feelings for Sonia, a fellow student, and he makes plans for a rescue mission to liberate hostages in the notorious Moluccan hijacking case in Bovensmilde. But most of all, he wants to escape from the institution for the blind to a school for sighted children. Otto doesn't want sympathy. He can see a future: working for the radio. In short, a novel about a boy with remarkable powers of observation.

Tennessee, 1864. On a late autumn day, near a little town called Franklin, 10,000 men will soon lie dead or dying in a battle that will change many lives for ever. None will be more changed than Carrie McGavock, who finds her home taken over by the Confederate army and turned into a field hospital. Taking charge, she finds the courage to face up to the horrors around her and, in doing so, finds a cause. Out on the battlefield, a tired young Southern soldier drops his guns and charges forward into Yankee territory, holding only the flag of his company's colours. He survives and is brought to the hospital. Carrie recognizes something in him - a willingness to die - and decides on that day, in her house, she will not let him. In the pain-filled days and weeks that follow, both

find a form of mutual healing that neither thinks possible. In this extraordinary debut novel based on a true story, Robert Hicks has written an epic novel of love and heroism set against the madness of the American Civil War.

The Little Old Lady Who Broke All the Rules is an incredibly quirky, humorous and warm-hearted story about growing old disgracefully - and breaking all the rules along the way! 79-year-old Martha Andersson dreams of escaping her care home and robbing a bank. She has no intention of spending the rest of her days in an armchair and is determined to fund her way to a much more exciting lifestyle. Along with her four oldest friends - otherwise known as the League of Pensioners - Martha decides to rebel against all of the rules imposed upon them. Together, they cause uproar with their antics protesting against early bed-times and plasticky meals. As the elderly friends become more daring, they hatch a cunning plan to break out of the dreary care home and land themselves in a far more attractive Stockholm establishment. With the aid of their Zimmer frames, they resolve to stand up for old aged pensioners everywhere - Robin Hood style. And that's when the adventure really takes off . . . Catharina Ingelman-Sundberg's insightful comedy is perfect for fans of *The Hundred-Year-Old Man Series* and *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*. Translated from Swedish by Rod Bradbury. Continue the escapades with *The Little Old Lady Who Struck Lucky Again!*

"*The Diary of Alonzo Typer*" by H. P. Lovecraft, William Lumley. Published by Good Press. Good Press publishes a wide range of titles that encompasses every genre. From well-known classics & literary fiction and non-fiction to forgot-

ten—or yet undiscovered gems—of world literature, we issue the books that need to be read. Each Good Press edition has been meticulously edited and formatted to boost readability for all e-readers and devices. Our goal is to produce eBooks that are user-friendly and accessible to everyone in a high-quality digital format. An imaginative, intriguing and dark fairy-tale. After many years Doctor Victor Hoppe returns to the small village he grew up in. His return after an absence of many years generates a lot of interest - and suspicion - as he is accompanied by three triplets, all of whom share the same physical deformity as the doctor - a hare lip. These children are very quiet and are rarely seen in the village. But with time, and a series of apparently miraculous cures and tales of the wife he lost, the doctor begins to win the villagers over. He hires an ex schoolmistress, Charlotte, to look after the children. But the longer she works with the doctor, the more she begins to suspect that the children - and the doctor - aren't what they seem...

In the words of bestselling author Susan Vreeland, "Renate Dorrestein knows how to chill her readers with tragedy and then melt their hearts with forgiveness." *A Heart of Stone* is a story of love, fate, and survival that plumbs the undercurrents of family life with passion and skin-prickling suspense. Growing up with her adored siblings in a rambling house in Holland, clever, precocious Ellen has an idyllic childhood suffused with Americana from her parents' news-clipping service—from Coca-Cola to Kissinger to Neil Armstrong's first step on the moon. But amid the happiness lies terror and unimaginable heartbreak and a twelfth birthday that haunts her still. Twenty-five years later, as Ellen tries to make sense of her adulthood, she brilliantly captures

her loss and longings and her struggles to dispel the ghosts of her past. "A stunning novel about the scorching legacy of loss."—Time "A striking and finely tuned novel."—The New York Times

Nine years before the events of the #1 international bestseller *The Secret Diary of Hendrik Groen, 83 ¼ Years Old*, Hendrik and his best friend Evert embark on a madcap adventure—with an unexpected guest. Hendrik Groen and Evert Duiker, faithful friends in good and bad times, are well over seventy and their lives have quieted down. They see each other once a week to play chess, have a drink, and grab a bite to eat while reflecting on life. But one day, their peace is rudely disturbed when Evert shows up on Hendrik's doorstep with a surprise in the form of an unexpected little guest. He had spotted a stroller with a baby in it—unattended for just a minute—and, in a moment of utter madness, decided to take it for a walk. Hilarious, right? Not to Hendrik, who can barely believe his friend's stupidity. After Evert regains recovery from his momentary lapse of sanity, the two seventy-year-olds resolve to return their charge to its parents—hopefully without being noticed. But the quiet neighborhood is now swarmed by bumbling police officers, and they realize that getting rid of their accidental foster child will be more difficult than expected . . .

Like Stephen King's *The Stand* before it, *THE DEAD LANDS* is an incredible novel set across the sprawling landscape of a nightmarish post-apocalyptic American West. The world we know is gone, destroyed by a virus that wiped out nearly every human on the planet. Some few survivors built walled cities, fortresses to keep themselves safe from those the virus didn't kill... but did change. Sanc-

tuary. A citadel in the heart of the former United States of America. Hundreds of miles in every direction beyond its walls lies nothing but death and devastation. Everyone who lives in the safety Sanctuary provides knows that. Until the day a stranger appears. She speaks of a green and fertile land far to the west, a land of promise and plenty, safe from the ruin the virus has wreaked. She has come to lead the survivors away from Sanctuary, to the promise of a new life without walls. But those who follow her will discover that not everything she says is true.

The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio introduces Evelyn Ryan, an enterprising woman who kept poverty at bay with wit, poetry, and perfect prose during the "contest era" of the 1950s and 1960s. Stepping back into a time when fledgling advertising agencies were active partners with consumers, and everyday people saw possibility in every coupon, Terry Ryan tells how her mother kept the family afloat by writing jingles and contest entries. Mom's winning ways defied the Church, her alcoholic husband, and antiquated views of housewives. To her, flouting convention was a small price to pay when it came to securing a happy home for her six sons and four daughters. Evelyn, who would surely be a Madison Avenue executive if she were working today, composed her jingles not in the boardroom, but at the ironing board. By entering contests wherever she found them -- TV, radio, newspapers, direct-mail ads -- Evelyn Ryan was able to win every appliance her family ever owned, not to mention cars, television sets, bicycles, watches, a jukebox, and even trips to New York, Dallas, and Switzerland. But it wasn't just the winning that was miraculous; it was the timing. If a toaster died, one was sure to arrive in the mail from a

forgotten contest. Days after the bank called in the second mortgage on the house, a call came from the Dr Pepper company: Evelyn was the grand-prize winner in its national contest -- and had won enough to pay the bank. Graced with a rare appreciation for life's inherent hilarity, Evelyn turned every financial challenge into an opportunity for fun and profit. From her frenetic supermarket shopping spree -- worth \$3,000 today -- to her clever entries worthy of Erma Bombeck, Dorothy Parker, and Ogden Nash, the story of this irrepressible woman whose talents reached far beyond her formidable verbal skills is told in *The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio* with an infectious joy that shows how a winning spirit will triumph over the poverty of circumstance.

WINNER OF THE 2018 LUCIEN STRYK ASIAN TRANSLATION PRIZE The English-language premiere of Qiu Miaojin's coming-of-age novel about queer teenagers in Taiwan, a cult classic in China and winner of the 1995 China Times Literature Award. An NYRB Classics Original Set in the post-martial-law era of late-1980s Taipei, *Notes of a Crocodile* is a coming-of-age story of queer misfits discovering love, friendship, and artistic affinity while hardly studying at Taiwan's most prestigious university. Told through the eyes of an anonymous lesbian narrator nicknamed Lazi, this cult classic is a postmodern pastiche of diaries, vignettes, mash notes, aphorisms, exegesis, and satire by an incisive prose stylist and major countercultural figure. Afflicted by her fatalistic attraction to Shui Ling, an older woman, Lazi turns for support to a circle of friends that includes a rich kid turned criminal and his troubled, self-destructive gay lover, as well as a bored, mischievous overachiever and her alluring slacker artist girlfriend. Illus-

trating a process of liberation from the strictures of gender through radical self-inquiry, *Notes of a Crocodile* is a poignant masterpiece of social defiance by a singular voice in contemporary Chinese literature.

Originally the Venda Building Society, VBS Mutual Bank was a small, little-known lender in Limpopo before it rocketed from obscurity in 2016 by giving President Jacob Zuma a controversial home loan to repay the state for improvements to his Nkandla homestead. The bank was growing rapidly and sold itself as a fearless champion of black advancement. Its main shareholder, Vele Investments, was on a meteoric trajectory towards becoming a financial conglomerate worthy of national attention. When the bank abruptly went into curatorship in March 2018, no one had any reason to doubt that it was just another unfortunate corporate failure. Then the astonishing truth emerged: the collapse of VBS was due to an epic R2-billion fraud that had created Vele's empire out of thin air and left the bank a hollow shell. *VBS: A Dream Defrauded* unravels the fraud, exploring how suspected mastermind Tshifhiwa Matodzi and his associates first took control of VBS, fed ANC patronage networks and operated under a nationalist mantle endorsed by Venda royalty. The book explains how the bank and its shareholder Vele were seemingly built into a multibillion-rand business, exposes the political machinations that guaranteed VBS up to R3.5 billion in unlawful funding from municipalities and other state institutions, and describes the free-for-all that ensued after the bank's collapse, when all involved tried to cover their tracks. Written by one of the journalists who first broke the story, this book draws on interviews with VBS insiders and other role-players, as well as documents and de-

tailed forensic evidence collected in the course of two years of investigations. This is a compelling account of a bank heist whose shockwaves continue to haunt the politicians, businessmen and traditional leaders who enabled it.

Josh Cope is just an average boy, so why is an international corporation calling him and insisting that he come and work for them - Josh soon finds himself caught in a nightmare world somewhere between dreams and reality.

The story of a teenage Jewish girl who was sent into hiding in 1942 with a Christian family.--

"In these tales the reader can observe Anne's writing prowess grow from that of a young girl's into the observations of a perceptive, edgy, witty and compassionate woman"--Jacket flaps.

In conversations with drivers ranging from veterans of foreign wars to Indigenous women protecting one another, Di Cintio explores the borderland of the North American taxi. "The taxi," writes Marcello Di Cintio, "is a border." Occupying the space between public and private, a cab brings together people who might otherwise never have met—yet most of us sit in the back and stare at our phones. Nowhere else do people occupy such intimate quarters and share so little. In a series of interviews with drivers, their backgrounds ranging from the Iraqi National Guard, to the Westboro Baptist Church, to an arranged marriage that left one woman stranded in a foreign country with nothing but a suitcase, *Driven* seeks out those missed conversations, revealing the unknown stories that surround us. Travelling across borders of all kinds, from battlefields and occupied lands to midnight fares and Tim Hortons parking lots, Di Cintio chronicles the many journeys each driver made merely

for the privilege to turn on their rooflight. Yet these lives aren't defined by tragedy or frustration but by ingenuity and generosity, hope and indomitable hard work. From night school and sixteen-hour shifts to schemes for athletic careers and the secret Shakespeare of Dylan's lyrics, Di Cintio's subjects share the passions and triumphs that drive them. Like the people encountered in its pages, *Driven* is an unexpected delight, and that most wondrous of all things: a book that will change the way you see the world around you. A paean to the power of personality and perseverance, it's a compassionate and joyful tribute to the men and women who take us where we want to go.

An irresistible look at the glamour and subterfuge of New York's art world, from bestselling author and Hollywood star Steve Martin. Lacey Yeager is beautiful, captivating, and ambitious enough to take the New York art world by storm. She begins her career at Sotheby's, amidst the winks and nods of the fabulously wealthy. But hungry for more - and pursued by a whiff of scandal - Lacey migrates to edgy Downtown, watching Hirsts and Warhols multiply in value before her eyes. Charming men and women, old and young, rich and even richer, Lacey's ascendancy seems assured. But when the art world bubble looks set to burst, a secret from her past rears its head, threatening to undermine everything she has worked for...

THE INSTANT SUNDAY TIMES BESTSELLER 'Love, mess, secrets; this story of four generations of women is filled with Ruth Jones's warmth and wisdom.' JOJO MOYES 'Ruth Jones writes with such warmth you can't help but fall in love with the characters she creates. It's always grounded, always real, always com-

forting, always ultimately full of love' JAMES CORDEN 'A hug in a book' Prima 'Her best book yet' Woman & Home 'Compassionate, wise and life-affirming' The Observer The funny, moving and uplifting new novel from Ruth Jones, co-creator of *Gavin & Stacey* and author of the Sunday Times bestsellers *Never Greener* and *Us Three*. Grace is about to turn ninety. She doesn't want parties or presents or fuss. She just wants to heal the family rift that's been breaking her heart for decades. But to do that she must find her daughter Alys - the only person who can help to put things right. And when she finds her - if she does - she risks betraying granddaughter Elin. Who is far less forgiving of the past, with its hurts and secrets and lies. Meanwhile Grace's great-grand-daughter Beca is oblivious to all these worries, too busy navigating the highs and lows of teenage life and keeping secrets of her own. All families have their problems. And most of them get resolved. But Grace's problem is thirty years old. And she doesn't have time on her side. So is it too late for her to make peace? Or is reconciliation still within reach? *Love Untold* is about mothers and daughters and the complex bond between them. It's about the heartache that comes from leaving things unsaid and the power of true forgiveness. It is a joy-filled, life-affirming, sob-inducing novel - with characters you'll come to know and love - from no.1 bestselling author Ruth Jones. PRAISE FOR RUTH JONES 'Heartfelt, joyful, brave, utterly compelling' RACHEL JOYCE 'I adored it' JOANNA CANNON 'Joyful, life-affirming' ADELE PARKS 'Beautifully warm and totally absorbing. I cried and I laughed. I adored it' JANE FALLON WHAT READERS ARE SAYING - 'Good grief. This is truly a novel that pulled on every last emotion.' - 'Warm-hearted, beautiful and

heartbreaking.' - 'Ruth's best book yet... entertaining and incredibly moving.' - 'A gorgeous, emotional read that I was completely immersed in.' - 'I'm absolutely gutted it's over... loved every single page.'

A RICHARD AND JUDY BOOK CLUB PICK AND NUMBER ONE BESTSELLER What if you had said yes . . . ? Eva and Jim are nineteen, and students at Cambridge, when their paths first cross in 1958. Jim is walking along a lane when a woman approaching him on a bicycle swerves to avoid a dog. What happens next will determine the rest of their lives. We follow three different versions of their future - together, and apart - as their love story takes on different incarnations and twists and turns to the conclusion in the present day. *The Versions of Us* is an outstanding debut novel about the choices we make and the different paths that our lives might follow. What if one small decision could change the rest of your life? Laura's Barnett's new book *GREATEST HITS* is available for pre-order now.

The story of an unusual friendship, this novel is also a humorous, tender homage to the pleasure of reading His mother called him a worthless halfwit while his fellow drunks at the local bar ensure he's the butt of all their jokes. He spends his days whittling wood, counting pigeons and adding his own name to the bottom of the list on the town war memorial. So how could Germain possibly understand what a casual encounter on a park bench with eighty-five year old Margueritte could mean? In this touchingly comic tale of an unusual friendship, that first conversation opens a door into a world Germain could never have imagined-the world of books and ideas- and gives both him and Margueritte a chance at a happiness they thought had passed them by. Born in Bordeaux in

1957, Marie-Sabine Roger has been writing books for both adults and children since 1989. *Soft in the Head* was made into a 2010 film, *My Afternoons with Margueritte*, directed by Jean Becker, starring Gerard Depardieu. *Get Well Soon* won the Prix des lecteurs de *l'Express* in 2012 and will be published by Pushkin Press in 2017.

Do you remember collecting shrapnel and listening to Children's Hour? Carrying gas masks or sharing your school with evacuees from the city? The 1940s was a time of great challenge for everyone who lived through it. From the hardships and fear of a World War, with Britain's towns and cities were being bombed on an almost nightly basis, to the trauma of being parted from ones parents and sent away to the country to live with complete strangers. For just over half of this decade the war continued, meaning food and clothing shortages became a way of life. But through it all, and afterwards, the simplicity of kids shone through. From collecting bits of shot down German aircraft to playing in bomb-strewn streets, kids made their own fun. Then there was the joy of the second half of this decade when fathers came home and fun things started up again. This trip down memory lane will take you through the most memorable and evocative experiences of growing up in the 1940s.

Jacqueline van Maarsen's father was Dutch, her mother French; he was Jewish, she a Catholic. In 1938, after unremitting effort, he succeeded in registering his wife with the Jewish Council in Amsterdam. From that moment on, his two daughters were also considered to be Jews. Jacqueline was forced to go to a special school for Jewish children - it was there that she met Anne Frank and they

immediately became friends. Unlike Anne Frank, Jacqueline van Maarsen escaped deportation thanks to her strong-willed mother who persuaded the German Registration Bureau to undo her listing as a Jew. She left the school a few months after Anne Frank went into hiding (or 'went to Switzerland', as Jacqueline believed). It was only after the war when Otto Frank, Anne's father, told her what had happened that she found out the truth about her best friend's fate.

In the lineage of Margaret Atwood's *Alias Grace*, *The Savage Instinct* is the chilling story of one woman's struggle for her sanity, set against the backdrop of the arrest and trial of Mary Ann Cotton, England's first female serial killer. England, 1873. Clara Blackstone has just been released after one year in a private asylum for the insane. Clara has two goals: to reunite with her husband, Henry, and to never—ever—return to the asylum. As she enters Durham, Clara finds her carriage surrounded by a mob gathered to witness the imprisonment of Mary Ann Cotton—England's first female serial killer—accused of poisoning nearly twenty people, including her husbands and children. Clara soon finds the oppressive confinement of her marriage no less terrifying than the white-tiled walls of Hoxton. And as she grows increasingly suspicious of Henry's intentions, her fascination with Cotton grows. Soon, Cotton is not just a notorious figure from the headlines, but an unlikely confidante, mentor—and perhaps accomplice—in Clara's struggle to protect her money, her freedom and her life.

A darkly comic novel about life, death and everything that matters! At three o'clock in the morning, that defenceless hour when anything feels possible, the Idyll Inn's only sounds are the low hum and thrum a building makes to keep it-

self going. An uneasy hour, it is also the most discreet time for unsavoury acts. If all goes well, there will be no repercussions. At three o'clock in the morning, four people convene in one room to do the unthinkable. All four harbour secrets - of betrayal, sex, fear, and guilt - but all four are united in their loathing of the director of the Inn. Fuelled by Sylvia's secret wine stash, they begin to confess to past demeanours, to abandonment and hope, to questions of love and loyalty. But then one of them asks a question that no one is prepared for... *EXIT LINES* is a wry, funny but also terribly poignant novel about life's turning points and about how we adapt and change. It is about growing old disgracefully and tackles the 'Big Questions' with a refreshing lightness of touch.

The new diary from one of literature's most beloved octogenarians. On *The Bright Side* picks up where *The Secret Diary of Hendrik Groenleft* off, at the care home of the anarchic Old-But-Not-Dead Club where Hendrik and his friends are determined to enjoy their autumn years full of optimism. Written with his characteristic charm and humour Hendrik proves, yet again, that age is simply a number.

The bestselling author of *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* and *Tulip Fever* is back with a warm, witty and wise novel about the unexpected twists that later life can bring... 'Nobody in the world knows our secret ... that I've ruined Bev's life, and she's ruined mine.' Petra's love life is a bit of a car-crash, even in her sixties. But then she falls for Jeremy, an old chum, visiting from abroad. The catch? Jeremy is her best friend's husband. And just as Petra is beginning to relax guiltily into her happy ever after, she finds herself catapulted to West Africa, and to Bev, her

best friend who she's been betraying so spectacularly. It turns out that no matter

where you are in the world, everyone has something to hide. Can Bev - can anyone - be trusted?