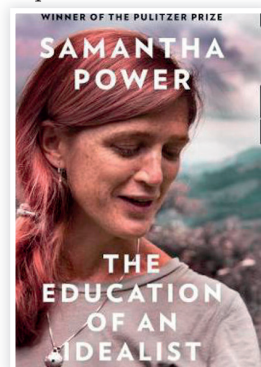


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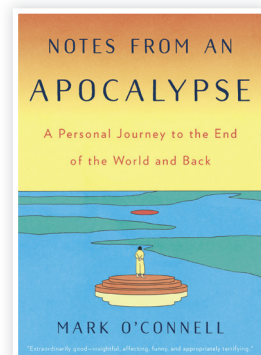
Book Recommendations: FACTUAL BOOKS

Being restricted in our movements
Over the last few months, many people have taken up new hobbies and activities. But if you have had your fill of sourdough starters and seeds take a look at these non-fiction book recommendations. There has never been a better or more important time to learn how the world is experienced by people with different perspectives to our own, or to explore the natural world.

When Samantha Power is interviewed in the media, requests for her memoir

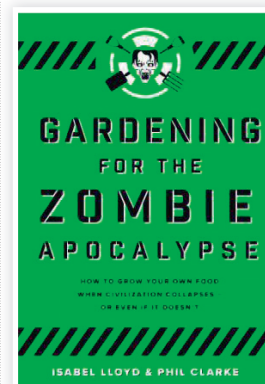


The Education of an Idealist increase. Power's book reflects her perceptive and candid interview style, as she describes her early years in Dublin, moving to the United States as a child, working as an aide to Barack Obama, and her years as US ambassador to the United Nations. Kilkenny Arts Festival X presents the Hubert Butler Series, featuring Samantha Power in conversation with Olivia O'Leary, online from August 12th at 8pm. So be sure to request her memoir before then!

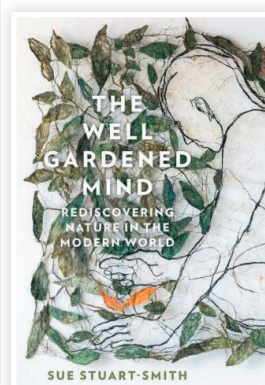


Kilkenny-born Mark O'Connell wowed with his debut To Be A Machine which won the Wellcome Book Prize and the Rooney Prize. In his second book,

Notes from the Apocalypse - A Personal Journey to the End of the World and Back - he travels around the world meeting men and women who are preparing for the end of the world. From survival bunkers in South Dakota to would-be Mars-colonists, this is a timely and engaging read.

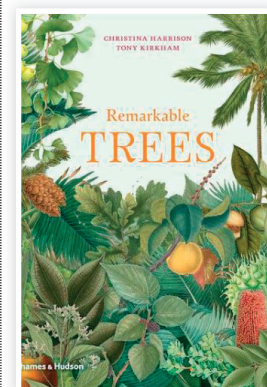


Pair this with Gardening for the Zombie Apocalypse by Isabel Lloyd and Phil Clarke, to find out how you can grow the 20 key foods that will keep you alive, and how to create gardens in sites of all kinds. This is a book that combines zombie jokes and gardening, which might be one of the first in this particular genre!

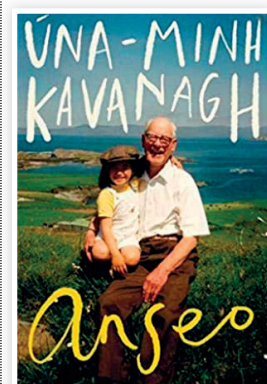


The Well Gardened Mind by Sue Stuart-Smith investi-

gates the remarkable effects of nature on our health and wellbeing. This book explores the many ways that gardening can help to transform people's lives - prisoners, the elderly - and how we can rediscover a closer relationship with the earth. A blend of science, insight and anecdote that comes 'highly recommended' by Stephen Fry.



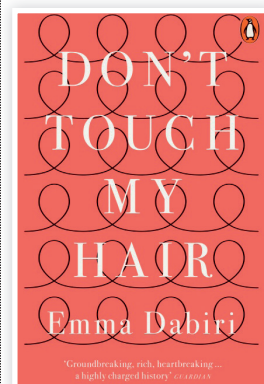
The gorgeous illustrations in Remarkable Trees by Christina Harrison and Tony Kirkham will keep readers turning the pages in this beautiful book. Two experts from Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew have selected over sixty trees, from global habitats, for their resonance and connection to people. The botanical illustrations are taken from Kew's vast archive and are a feast for the eyes.



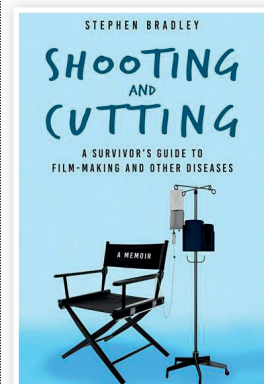
Recent memoirs and essay collections from writers like Sinéad Gleeson (Constellations), Emilie Pine (Notes to Self) have propelled readers to seek more in this genre. Recognising the need to amplify voices previously unheard or marginalised, here are two memoirs that address personal experienc-

es of racism in Ireland, and more, through very different lenses.

Anseo, Úna-Minh Kavanagh's memoir begins in Hanoi with her adoption in 1991 by a single woman from Kerry. Kavanagh writes honestly and humorously about tackling racism, her love of the internet, video games and accessible Irish-language content.

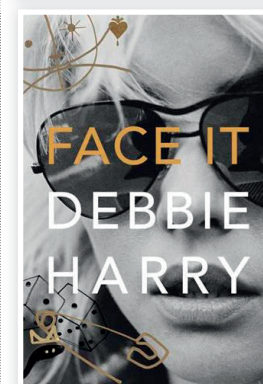
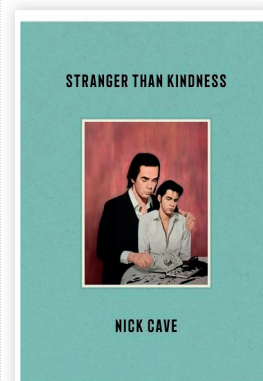


Don't Touch My Hair by Irish-Nigerian author, academic and broadcaster Emma Dabiri combines memoir with social commentary. Dabiri moves beyond the personal to the history of black hair in wider contexts, and as a complex visual language. Booker prize-winner Bernardine Evaristo (Girl, Woman, Other) describes this book as 'groundbreaking.'



Irish writer-director Stephen Bradley was diagnosed with stage IV cancer at the end of a promotional tour for his film Noble, which starred his wife Deirdre O'Kane as Christina Noble. Shooting and Cutting, A Survivor's Guide to Film-making and other Diseases is his honest and very funny memoir detailing his journey through

life-changing treatment back to health, and includes stories from his twenty years in the film and television business.

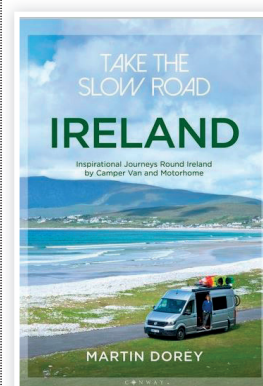


For music and arts lovers, new books from Nick Cave (Stranger than Kindness) and Debbie Harry (Face It) are high on the recommended list. Both are rich with storytelling and stunning visuals.

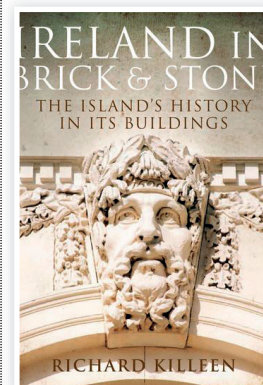


Lucy Costigan and photographer Michael Cullen have created a work of art with their book, Dark Beauty, a sumptuous exploration of Harry Clarke's stained-glass windows. Stunning photographs of Clarke's windows in Ireland, England and America and Australia feature in the book, and the win-

dows are explored in great detail. A treat for art lovers!

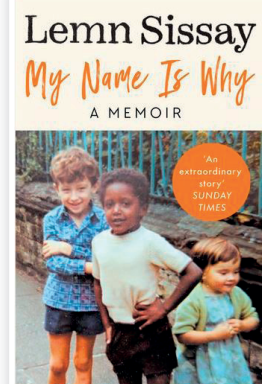


Don't forget to check out Borrowbox for non-fiction options-Holidays this year are all about staycations. So, what better time to explore Ireland with the expertise of camper-van enthusiast Martin Dorey! His eBook, Take the Slow Road, Ireland: Inspirational Journeys Round Ireland by Camper Van and Motorhome - provides plenty of ideas for outings, day trips, holidays and for arm-chair travellers who you are not venturing far from home.



Pair this with eBook Ireland in Brick & Stone - The Island's History in its Buildings. Historian Richard Killeen takes fifty buildings and other man-made constructions from around Ireland and uses them to illustrate the history of the island over the last 1,500 years. A quirky and accessible way to discover more about history.

The bestselling memoir My Name is Why, from poet Lemn Sissay is popular on both eAudiobook and eBook. After spending his teenage years in care homes in England, the author discovered from his birth certificate that he was not called Norman



but was Lemn Sissay, of British and Ethiopian parents. Written with the lyricism and power you would expect from this gifted poet, his story is a celebration of the redemptive power of creativity.



True crime readers will relish the eAudiobook release of Michelle McNamara's bestseller, I'll Be Gone In the Dark: One Woman's Obsessive Search for the Golden State Killer. This utterly compelling and original true crime classic is McNamara's search for the identity of the Golden State Killer. Published after the author's unexpected death, the book has also been made into a six-part docuseries.

"I find television very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set, I go into the other room and read a book."

- Groucho Marx