

## TRAVEL

# Write your bestseller here



JK Rowling wrote hers in an Edinburgh cafe; Zadie Smith in her bedroom. The question is: where will you create your masterpiece? Thanks to a host of new literary travel escapes, it could be somewhere more exotic than your local deli. We picked the top three literary breaks for 2012...

#### BEST FOR: SERIOUS BEGINNERS

Join author Carol Birch –

shortlisted for the Booker Prize – at Create Escapes' five-day workshop on creative writing hosted in a 200-year-old farmhouse in the Ibiza hills. Two publicists and a psychologist (to check your writing motivation) also join. **19-26 May; from £1,150** ([createescapes.com](http://createescapes.com))

#### BEST FOR: INTENSE LEARNING

Set in 27 acres of Cornish parkland, short-story writing

weekends are run by editor of *The London Magazine*

Steven O'Brien. Stay in a luxury yurt and explore the award-winning beach in between writing workshops and one-to-one tutorials. **14-16 October; from £450** ([mawganporth.co.uk](http://mawganporth.co.uk))

#### BEST FOR: PEACE AND QUIET

Taught by novelist and poet



GET CREATIVE IN THE RURAL SURROUNDINGS OF AN IBIZA FARMHOUSE

Elizabeth Speller, this five-day course is situated in the breathtaking surroundings of a white-washed 200-year-old private estate in Corfu. One-to-one tutorials and your own private beach house? Yes please. **8-15 October; from £1,295** ([simpsontravel.com](http://simpsontravel.com))



PUBLISH YOUR BOOK VIA A SELF-PUBLISHING OUTLET AND YOU COULD MAKE A FORTUNE

## BUSINESS

# Be a self-publishing success

If you haven't heard of Amanda Hocking yet, you soon will. She's earned £1.5 million from self-publishing her novels (including *Switched*) on Amazon's Kindle Direct Publishing tool – with no agent or publisher in sight. Here are our top tips to start your ebook career:

◆ Market your book via

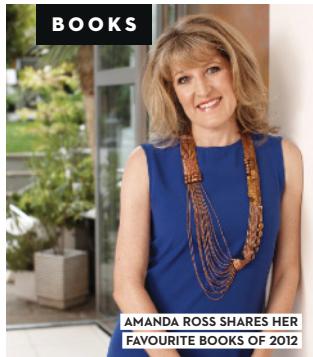
a dedicated personal website and social media.

- ◆ Publish two or more of your works at the same time is a good idea. Research suggests people are more likely to invest time in a new author with more than one title to their name.
- ◆ Don't expect much for your book. People won't

spend more than 99p on an unknown name.

- ◆ Check out non-profit body, The Alliance Of Independent Authors, representing the interests of self-published authors, launching this spring.
- ◆ Edit your work before releasing it – no-one wants to read something riddled with typos.

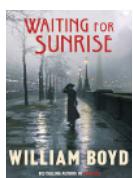
## BOOKS



AMANDA ROSS SHARES HER FAVOURITE BOOKS OF 2012

# Must-reads of 2012

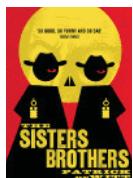
Amanda Ross, creator of the *Richard And Judy Book Club* and the 'most powerful person in the publishing world'\* picks the four books you must read this year.



#### WAITING FOR SUNRISE

William Boyd  
(out now, £8.54, Bloomsbury)

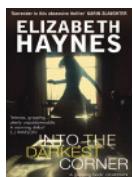
"If you want to know how to write, read this – Boyd is a brilliant writer both stylistically and technically."



#### THE SISTERS BROTHERS

Patrick de Witt  
(out now, £6.29, Granta Books)

"This novel is about two killer hitmen who you actually feel yourself falling in love with. One of the most extraordinary books I've ever read."



#### INTO THE DARKEST CORNER

Elizabeth Haynes  
(out now, £6.07, Myriad Editions)

"Features one of the scariest villains I've ever encountered."



#### THE HUMORIST

Russell Kane  
(out 26 April, £8.18 Simon & Schuster)

"As well as being a comedian, Russell is a brilliant writer. This is dark but very funny."

*The TV Book Club* is on Sundays at 7.20pm on More4. For Amanda's tips for writers visit [stylist.co.uk](http://stylist.co.uk)



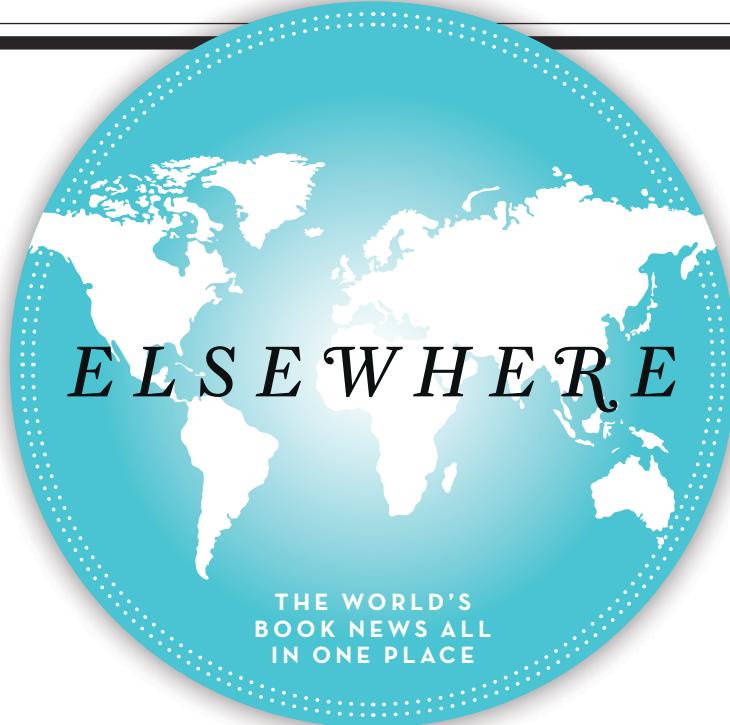
## THE ART OF RECYCLING

 **Japan** We've got them cluttering our bookshelves, propping up tables and even acting as flood barriers, but Japanese artist Koshi Kawachi has found a much 'prettier' way of utilising his old books; by growing flowers out of them. The conceptual artist uses old copies of the country's popular Manga comic books as seedbeds from which to grow vegetables such as radishes. Kawachi calls the process Manga Farm, planting the seedlings "like bookmarks" in the pages of old books, placing them on a dish and then giving them water. Who knew indoor gardening could be so avant garde?



## SHH... WE'RE SPEED DATING

 **Canada** It's not often that we write the words 'dating' and 'library' in the same sentence - OK, it's never - but hopefully we will a lot more in the future. The Greater Victoria Public Library in Canada has come up with an ingenious way of populating their book aisles, while helping people find love. Called 'Literary Speed Dating', the organisers want to bring like-minded people together who might be put off by a more rowdy matchmaking event. Attendees should bring along their favourite books as an ice-breaker and spend five minutes at each table before moving on.



## TINTIN AND THE RACISM CHARGE

 **Belgium** A Belgian court has rejected an application to ban a 1946 edition of *Tintin In The Congo* for breaching racism laws. The book was the second in *The Adventures Of Tintin* series, created by Belgian writer Georges Remi, (who wrote under the name Hergé). The plot sees the ginger-haired journalist and his dog Snowy confront diamond smugglers, big game hunters and wild animals in the former Belgian colony.

Congolese campaigner Bienvenu Mbutu Mondondo has tried to get the book banned, claiming its portrayal of Africans is racist. However, the court has decided there's no evidence that Hergé intended to incite racism, which would have to be proved for the book to break the law.



TINTIN TRIES TO LOOK NONCHALANT ABOUT THE FURORE HE'S CAUSED



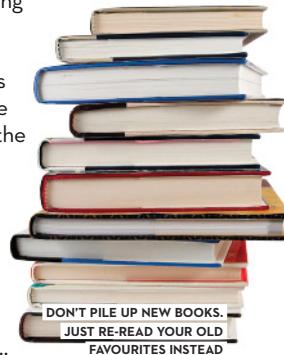
AYESHA MATTU (LEFT) AND NURA MAZNAVI (RIGHT) ARE JUSTIFIABLY PROUD

## SEX AND THE HIJAB

 **USA** The publication of a new book called *Love, InshAllah: The Secret Love Lives Of American Muslim Women* has upset some conservative Muslims who are outraged by the sex-before-marriage revelations it includes. The book is a collection of stories about sex, dating, marriage and divorce, by a varied spectrum of 25 Muslim women who all want to shatter the myth that they're exempt from sharing the same desires and frustrations as non-Muslim women. The co-editors, Ayesha Mattu and Nura Maznavi, are hoping the book will spark debate within their communities and actually get people talking about sex. Mattu said, "One of my greatest desires for this book is for it to break down the barriers between the generations and to really be a tool for discussion within families."

## RE-READ ALL ABOUT IT

 **New Zealand** How many times have you read your favourite book? Once? Twice? Nine times? Well, new research has shown that re-reading books that we first experienced during a happy time in our lives can have a comforting effect and be good for our mental health. Academics, who studied people in New Zealand and the US, found that the repeated experience led to heightened pleasure and increased knowledge and awareness. The study, which also looked at re-watching films and re-visiting favourite haunts, showed that the second reading of a book is also more 'emotional' as readers delve deeper into the layers of the novel. Think twice before throwing away that battered Penguin Classic then...



## BLOOD, GORE AND BOLLYWOOD

 **India** Consider India's moviemaking scene and no doubt the over-the-top Technicolor extravaganza of Bollywood films spring to mind. We're not sure the same can be said of zombies, but a new graphic novel - India's first zombie-led comic book - is certainly causing a stir among the art world in the subcontinent. *Zombie Talkies* accompanies the release of 'zomcom' flick, *Shaadi Of The Dead* featuring Bollywood star Abhay Deol, and tells the story of the making of the first-ever Hindi zombie film which goes awry when the 'real-life' undead take over the film set. It's the genre that just won't die...

