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Books

PHOTOGRAPH: TRUNKARCHIVE

From Amis to Weldon, this summer promises some first-class holiday reading. By Sebastian Shakespeare



Bring Up the Bodies by Hilary Mantel

The feverishly anticipated sequel to *Wolf Hall* focuses on the destruction of Anne Boleyn and Henry VIII's growing infatuation with Jane Seymour – not to mention Mantel's own girlish crush on Thomas Cromwell. A brilliantly atmospheric portrait of Tudor England, full of acute psychological insight. (*Fourth Estate, £20*)



The Teleportation Accident by Ned Beauman

Boxer, Beetle was acclaimed as the most inventive fictional debut in years, buzzing with energy and ideas, and Beauman's second novel keeps up the pace. Jumping between cities and centuries, this is a book about sex, violence, space and time, and how the best way to deal with history is to ignore it. If you care about contemporary writing, you must read this. (*Sceptre, £16.99*)



Habits of the House by Fay Weldon

Weldon was one of the original scriptwriters on *Upstairs, Downstairs*, so how apposite to set her new novel in an aristocratic household at the end of the 19th century. Lord and Lady Dilberne must marry off their son to a rich American heiress. 'The acceptance of vulgarity is the beginning of wisdom,' says Lady Dilberne. Hugely enjoyable. (*Head of Zeus, £16.99*)



Lionel Asbo by Martin Amis

Our most famous émigré author offers his scabrous take on modern England. Lionel Asbo is a very violent but not-so-successful young criminal eking out his life in prison when he wins £140 million on the lottery. A wicked satire of our celebrity-obsessed times in which the magnificently grotesque Asbo earns his place in the pantheon of Amis heroes alongside Keith Talent and John Self. (*Jonathan Cape, £18.99*)



Dear Lupin by Roger and Charlie Mortimer

Spanning 25 years, *Dear Lupin* is the hilarious correspondence between a father and his wayward son. Roger Mortimer, ex-soldier turned *Sunday Times* racing correspondent, gives witty and affectionate advice to his Etonian son Charlie, who follows him into the Guards before becoming an estate agent, second-hand car salesman, alcoholic and self-styled 'middle-aged, middle-class spiv'. Letter writing may be a dying art, but this book proves what a glorious art it is. (*Constable, £12.99*)

'THE ACCEPTANCE OF VULGARITY IS THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM,' SAYS LADY DILBERNE IN FAY WELDON'S LATEST



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Mrs Robinson's Disgrace
by Kate Summerscale

A fascinating story of desire, prejudice and cover-up. From the author of *The Suspicions of Mr Whicher* comes another absorbing

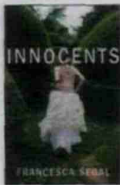
Victorian melodrama: on reading his wife's diary, Henry Robinson found a torrid record of her infatuations and petitioned for divorce on the grounds of adultery. But was Isabella's diary true or make-believe? Was she the heroine of her own romantic *Madame Bovary* novel? Summerscale turns super-sleuth again. (Bloomsbury, £16.99)



Park Lane by Frances Osborne

Osborne's first novel, *Park Lane*, is based on her own family, as was her bestselling biography, *The Bolter*. The story chronicles the lives of two women – one upstairs, one below – whose

fortunes are transformed by the suffragettes. A vibrant portrait of society on the cusp of change. (Virago, £14.99)



The Innocents
by Francesca Segal

Will he, won't he? That is the crux of this compelling debut novel, featuring childhood sweethearts Adam and Rachel, who are set for a life of married

bliss. But when Rachel's sexy New Yorker cousin Ellie appears, Adam is torn between duty and temptation, and a crisis of faith, love and family ensues. A stylish recasting of Edith Wharton's *The Age of Innocence* in Jewish north London. Yom yom. (Chatto & Windus, £14.99)



Archipelago
by Monique Roffey

Most people dream of escaping to the Caribbean; the hero of Roffey's novel is mad keen to escape from Trinidad after his house is destroyed by a flood.

He returns to rebuild his home with his six-year-old daughter, but memories of the flood haunt him and he takes to his boat. You can feel the sea breeze on your face and you'll be itching to dive into 'the green and turquoise leopard print sea'. (Simon & Schuster, £16.99)



The Truth by Michael Palin

A ripping yarn about a struggling writer's 'lucky' break. Keith Mabbut is commissioned to write the story of publicity-shy environmentalist Hamish Melville. Melville is everything

Mabbut admires: man of the people, defender of the poor and the disadvantaged. But as he sets out to discover the real Melville, the truth unravels in glorious fashion. An entertaining story of hero worship, compromise and grubby trade-offs. (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £18.99)

