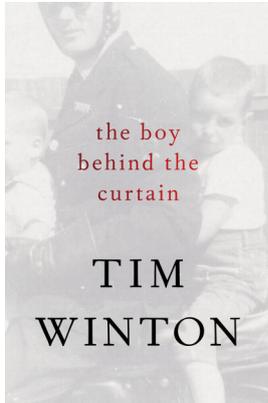


Book News

From The Lane Bookshop

Spring 2016



The Boy Behind the Curtain by Tim Winton \$45 (\$35 for ticketholders)
In store September 28. Author event October 13, tickets available in store.

Reflecting on the similarities between himself and his policeman father, Tim Winton writes:

All our days, both of us have tried to avoid trouble, and yet it's been our business. Without strife the cop and the novelist have nothing to work with.

Beginning with a reflection on his childhood fascination with guns, and ending with a return visit to the NGV, Winton's new memoir *The Boy Behind the Curtain* is a real treat for fans. He is a private man, but if you have ever heard him speak you will know he is by nature thoughtful and reflective. The range of subjects in *The Boy Behind the Curtain* is broad: the allure of risk taking in a piece giving the book its title; in 'Havoc' a description of the impact of a traumatic motorcycle accident his father was involved in when Winton was a boy; 'Twice on Sundays' reflects on the role of religion and spirituality in his life; 'Using the C-Word' is a look at class and its role in his life as well as the life of the nation and in 'The Demon Shark' he examines our obsession with sharks. Other topics include Elizabeth Jolley, our treatment of refugees and the family's ancient but embarrassing car.

Nobody is better at writing about landscape and our connection to it than Tim Winton. Reading his fiction is just about as close as you can get to diving into the sea or walking barefoot in the dirt without actually taking a step yourself. In one of the most beautiful chapters in the book 'Chasing Giants' he tells of paddling out with his wife in search of whales as they travel up the WA coast.

'Then, beneath me and slightly ahead, I saw a shadow. For a moment it looked like the profile of a whale swimming across my path along the seabed. But we were in only 5 meters of water and the scale was all wrong. A moment later I realized it wasn't the whole creature I was seeing. This was only its tail. Right beneath me. Getting bigger by the instant, scything up underfoot.'

ELIZABETH
STROUT

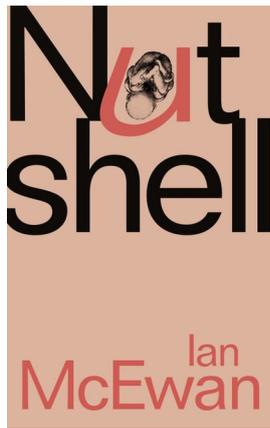
My
Name
is
Lucy
Barton



My Name is Lucy Barton by Elizabeth Strout. Hardback \$35. Paperback \$22.99 (due mid October) 2016 Man Booker Prize longlist.

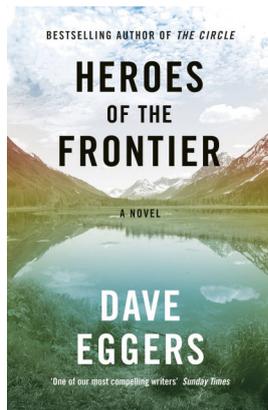
After a routine operation young New York mother of two Lucy Barton picks up an infection that sees her hospitalised for weeks. One afternoon she turns to find her own mother sitting in a chair at the end of the bed. It is years since the two have seen each other and Lucy is overwhelmed with emotion. Her mother stays by her bedside for five days and the two women talk, in a restrained way, about the past. Lucy's childhood in rural Illinois was one of extreme poverty and occasional violence. Although she found a way out and eventually made a new life as a writer, Lucy knows she is a product of her past. Many years later she will reflect on those pivotal five days spent with her mother and the glimpse she had into the other woman's life. Elizabeth Strout won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction with the wonderful *Olive Kitteridge* and in *My Name Is Lucy Barton* she has again produced an un-

flinching portrait of motherhood, loneliness, strength and frailty. There aren't many writers who combine such tough clear sightedness and gentle generosity, and Strout deserves her place on this year's Booker Prize longlist.



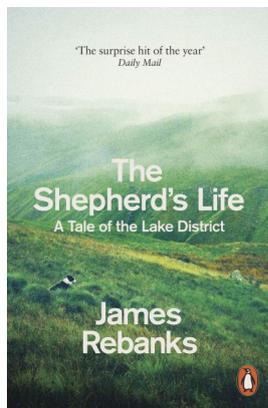
Nutshell by Ian McEwan \$32.99

Heavily pregnant Trudy has betrayed her poet husband John with his brother Claude. The pair have hatched a murderous plot to rid themselves of husband and brother, thus gaining a valuable London house as well as their freedom. There are several problems however. Firstly, Claude, apart from being monumentally boring, is also quite stupid. Trudy knows this, but cannot control her attraction to him. Secondly, John wants his wife back and visits daily in an attempt to woo her with poetry. Thirdly, there is an unusual witness to all the action - John and Trudy's unborn child, who eavesdrops on his mother's life from her womb and sharply narrates this Hamlet-like story, with revenge in mind. Part comedy, part tragedy, *Nutshell* manages to keep you guessing right to the last page.



Heroes of the Frontier by Dave Eggers \$32.99

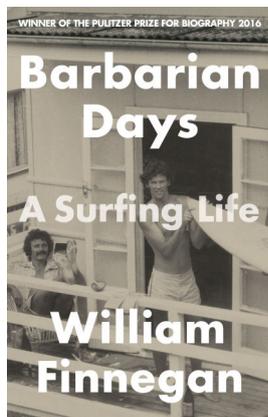
Beset by what feel like insurmountable problems, single mother Josie flees her home in Ohio and sets off with her two kids, Paul and Ana, in an old RV to explore Alaska. Josie is a dentist, but has lost her practice after being accused of failing to diagnose a patient's cancer. Imagining a new life without the lawsuits, the guilty conscience, the next to useless ex-partner and the infuriating other parents at her kids' school, Josie drifts across the state encountering a cast of kooky characters and situations. Unfortunately it doesn't seem to matter how far she goes or how many glasses of wine she drinks, Josie cannot avoid her own past or the reality of present day America. By turns hilariously funny, biting and poignant, Dave Eggers' new novel is a great read.



The Shepherd's Life by James Rebanks \$24.99

James Rebanks farms sheep in The Lake District in northern England. His family have been raising sheep there for centuries and the connection between the people and the land is tangible in every word he writes. The knowledge that is passed down from generation to generation is ancient, as is the breed of sheep they raise, but James himself mixes traditional ways with a few thoroughly modern twists. Having left school at 15 he later returned to education and got a double first at Oxford, subsequently working as a Unesco consultant to supplement his farm income. In *The Shepherd's Life* he takes us through the days, the seasons and the years in the fells. As a child he worshiped his grandfather, whose house had to be sold later to survive death taxes. As an adult he saw the family's entire flock destroyed during Britain's foot and mouth epidemic, but now wins prizes for the breed he helped

bring back from the brink.



Barbarian Days by William Finnegan \$24.99

2016 Pulitzer Prize (Autobiography) Winner

Now in his mid sixties, William Finnegan has been surfing for over half a century. *Barbarian Days* tells of a lifetime obsession with surfing that has seen him travel the world in pursuit of the perfect wave. Raised partly in California and partly in Hawaii, Finnegan took off in his early twenties and travelled the world, spending time working and surfing in Australia, Asia and South Africa. Now a staff writer with the New Yorker, his work often focuses on war, violence and social upheaval. His descriptions of what it is actually like to be in a wave are both exquisite and precise, his acknowledgement of the nostalgia of the surfing world laconic, and his analysis of the social protocols hidden beneath the veneer of 'surf cool' unsparring. Above all, *Barbarian Days* is a book about beauty and danger, about simultaneously wanting to be nowhere else but in the wave, and anywhere else but in the wave.