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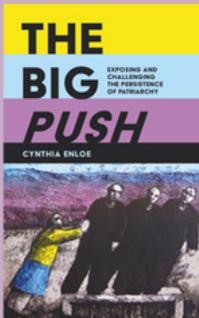
ME



Stories for new ways of seeing

We love to read. You love to read. Simple.

Issue No.9: Cynthia Enloe talks lockdown across the Pond, fragmented attention spans, and Trump • an extract from our perfect lockdown read *I Have Waited, And You Have Come* • and a wee bit more...

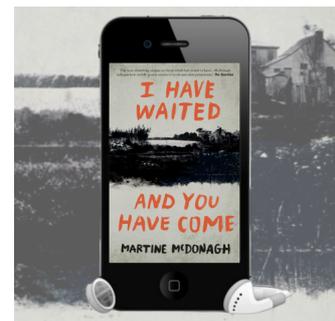


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Perfect for our times, now on audio

For anyone who's bought Albert Camus's *The Plague* or Cormac McCarthy's *The Road* to get a fictional taste of something akin to the world with Covid-19, we have the next read for you – the feminist version: **Martine McDonagh's** sensual, poignant and sinister novel *I Have Waited, And You Have Come* is a story of obsession and survival in a climate-changed environment.



It's not surprising that audio books seem to be the reads of choice for a lot of people at the moment – that comfort of being read to is just what we need. So we're delighted to tell you that *I Have Waited And You Have Come* is now

readers were delighted to tell you that *Have Waited*, and *You Have Come* is now available as an **audio book**, narrated by Martine herself.

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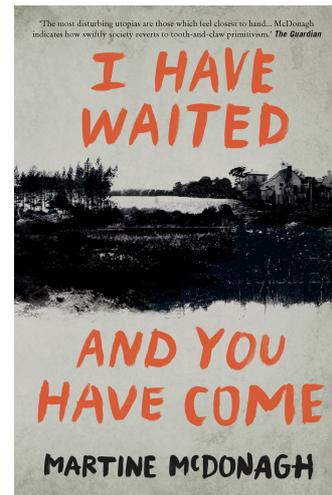
An extract from:

I Have Waited, And You Have Come

'Overhead the heron beats in. The full stretch of his wings rakes the air. His skinny legs dangle over the pond, which is too clogged with algae to offer up anything but a place to go, then drop him to his vigil at the water's edge. He folds his snake-neck into its watchful grey hunch and I move on.

There's a bucket, blown on a gale and snagged by a tree. Pale blue like a patch of old sky that forgot to turn grey, it swings above me, its handle looped over a high branch. I am waiting for the rain-filled weight of it to slide it to the end of the branch and bring it crashing down. Then it's mine; I'm the only one who knows about it and I have it earmarked for a special purpose. But I can't stay now because I've other things to do.'

READ THE FIRST CHAPTER



The week in reviews

Pondweed

by Lisa Blower

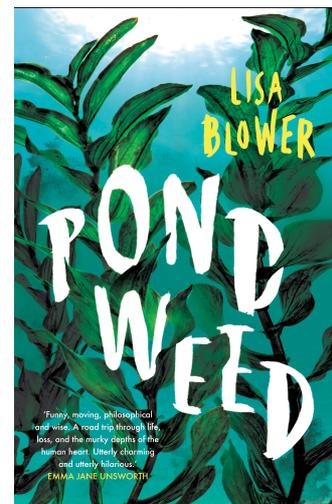
'Read all of *Pondweed* yesterday. Bloody loved it! I miss Selwyn and Ginny already.' —**Bookish Chat**

(*Pondweed* is out in July. Buy an exclusive advance copy through Myriad **HERE**.)

Mother: A Memoir

by Nicholas Royle

'In a remarkable and moving memoir he has captured and preserved a loving, kind, impatient woman – and perhaps, with her, all of our mothers in the sweet predictability of their sayings and habits.' —Ysenda Maxtone-Graham, *The Spectator*



'His writing is graceful and sensitive ... a moving and thoughtful read of the love of a son for his mother and his lifelong respect for her.' —*Short Book and Scribes*

Sensible Footwear

by Kate Charlesworth

'Moving, informative, funny and beautifully drawn ... as vivid a history of queer life as the general reader could hope to find. What happened ... is only meaningful when we have the wherewithal to imagine what it was like. This beautiful and generous memoir gives us that.'
—**Oliver Ardit**

New Daughters of Africa

edited by Margaret Busby

'*New Daughters of Africa* is not just a book. It is the most complete anthology of the writings of African and Afro-descending writers and poets' —**Espérance Hakuzwimana Ripanti**

'I cannot urge you enough to read it. Yes, it will help your personal journeys into more conscious reading choices. But more than that - it's just bloody brilliant writing. All of it. I have read most of it twice. It has led me to discover a whole host of under-read writers.'
—**Holly Dawson**

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CONTACT EMMA DOWSON FOR REVIEW COPIES**

My bookish life... Cynthia Enloe

Now more than ever it feels important to talk to each other, to meet new people, to learn new things. And so we're asking our writerly and bookish friends to talk to us, sharing a little insight into their daily lives...

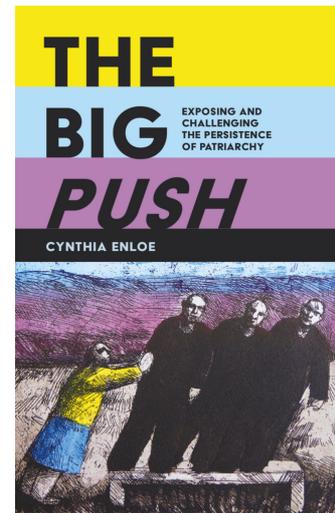




This week Cynthia Enloe gives us some insight into life in Cambridge, Massachusetts. In her latest book, *The Big Push*, Cynthia pulls back the curtain on patriarchy to reveal not only the blatant sexism we can all identify, but also the insidious persistence of particular forms of masculinity and authoritarianism in daily life.

How have my days changed since the start of the mid-March Boston shut down?

I was a daily lunchtime regular at a local down-market café. Everyone knew that that was where they could find me, rain, shine or snow. With it closed (I'm worried about all the minimum waged workers there), I now eat lunches here at home. Some things, though, haven't changed – I still read the NYTimes over breakfast, work here in my study mornings and afternoons, scribble lots of postcards, read NGO reports over lunch, novels in the late afternoon, mysteries (no stalkers! no serial killers! my favorite sleuths rarely run) over wine and quiche in the evening, and biographies before I turn out the light.



Have I developed new routines?

My days now involve lots of Zooming, usually in the early evening, though earlier when the Zooms are with pals in the UK, Iceland or Asia.

What am I looking forward to when life returns to semi-normal?

It won't be soon that we can enjoy going out to the movies or catching a plane to visit friends and colleagues across the Pond. Our local indie bookstore – **Porter Square Books** – thankfully, is surviving with online orders and now this week has curbside book pick-ups. As Boston restaurants partially reopen, maybe my partner and I will be able to join local pals here for dining outside at our favorite eateries on a soft summer eve.

How do I stay focused enough to write?

All of us have been describing how fragmented our attention spans have become. Here, it is compounded by hourly dismay at all that Trump and his complicit allies are doing –

giving dangerous, unfounded advice, exploiting our distraction to dismantle environmental protections, ignoring police brutality, and further fraying this country's already threadbare safety net. I'm finding that focusing on writing is easier if I can make what I'm writing speak to this dismay.

So, since March, I've been writing short essays. Luckily, I've been asked to write several blogs, especially for the wonderful feminist peace group **Women's International League for Peace and Freedom** (WILPF). They're keeping me focused. I've also been trying to hone my webinar and interview skills. The sorts of communication skills that work on the screen are not the same as those that work in print. Listening and viewing, I've learned, are not the same as reading.

Any advice?

We all craft such personal routines. But I guess I'd suggest that in these times, while our collective goals need to be big, we set personal goals that are small, short-term and achievable. For instance, I'm not even saying to myself: "I'll clean up my study."

Daily comforts?

I've been taking a lot more walks (masked; Cambridge residents are now virtually all masked when outdoors) around my neighborhood. I look at everyone's little front yard gardens, no two alike. All the houses around here are of wood, most are two-and-three-family, built in the early 1900s. As I walk, I'm amazed at the variety of housing styles.

Am I keeping in touch with others?

Postcards are my go-to mode of communication. The post office is a treasured public institution! But I'm on email, text and WhatsApp hours every day. And now Zoom too. Lots of people from different corners of my life have made this shutdown a time to keep in close touch. A couple of groups of feminists reach across multiple time zones. One of our local friendship groups has 14 of us on screen simultaneously.

BUY THE BIG PUSH

CONTACT EMMA DOWSON FOR REVIEW COPIES

If you work with books, in any way – editor, blogger, bookshop worker, reviewer – and would like to feature in our new 'My bookish life' series, we'd love to hear from you.

EMAIL US NOW

Before you go...

We're all reeling from this latest atrocity. George Floyd is yet *another* person killed from an act of violent, brutal racism. Over many years, our colleagues and partners at **New Internationalist** have been reporting on systemic racism, and covering **Black Lives Matter** activism – for anyone wishing to read and understand more. we'd like to share

these powerful articles from the NI archives:

'A Challenge to Power': Black Lives Matter and a new generation of activism has the potential to reawaken the global fight for black liberation, argues **Amy Hall**. [READ HERE](#)

'How Black Lives Matter Has Changed US Politics': The struggle against institutionalized oppression in the US goes beyond protest to an inclusive politics of identity. And it's not short on policy ideas either, says **Jamilah King**. [READ HERE](#)

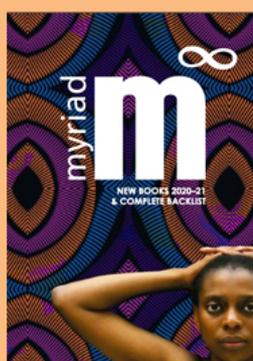
'Black Women in the Vanguard': In Brazil, misogynoir – misogyny directed at black women – has been used to fire up President Jair Bolsonaro's machismo base, and divert the population's attention away from his failings, **Leonardo Sakomoto** writes. [READ HERE](#)

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The Alzheimer's Society magazine book group is reading ***Mother: A Memoir*** by **Nicholas Royle**. Members can enjoy 30% off the book and can take part by sending in their thoughts by 6 July. [JOIN IN HERE](#)

It's terrific to see **Kate Charlesworth's** memoir ***Sensible Footwear*** – a glorious pageant of LGBTQI+ history – in Foyles' featured books for Pride Month 2020. [FIND IT HERE](#)

Kate Charlesworth will also be answering questions live tomorrow, Friday 05 June, in a Pride in Ageing 1st Birthday Celebration Event: '***Sensible Footwear*** Q&A'. [JOIN THE EVENT HERE](#)



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