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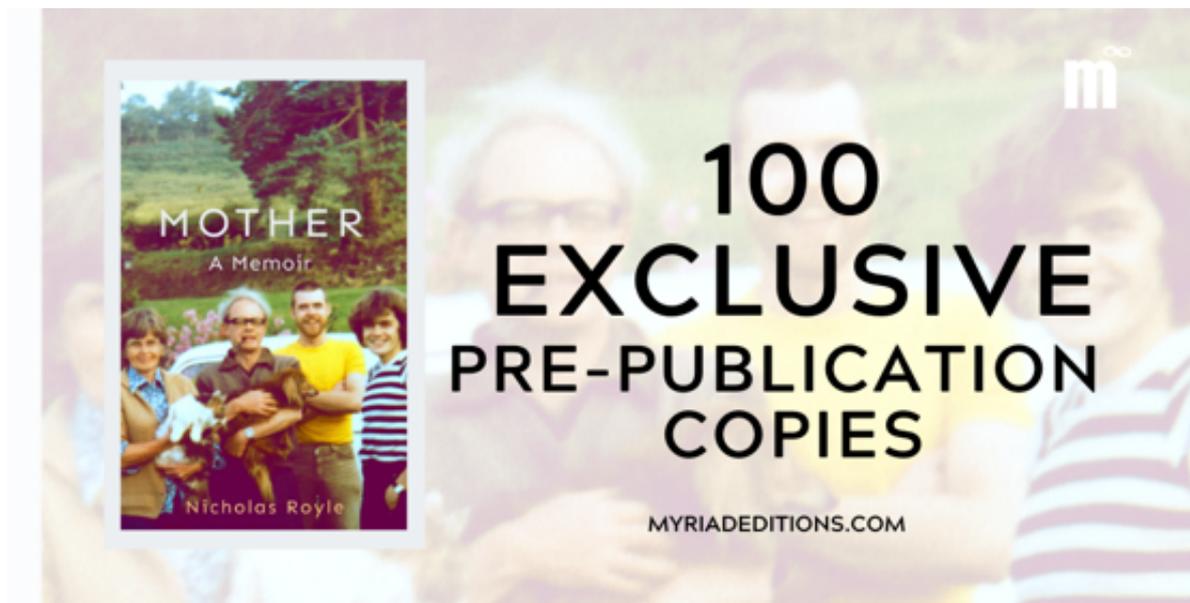
ME



Stories for new ways of seeing

## Book fans, welcome to your weekly dose of isolation entertainment

**Issue No.2:** Hannah Vincent talks loose days and poached eggs • small presses with big reads • lockdown comics • 25% off all Myriad books • and more sprightly news...



## Read Myriad at home, with 25% off

Original fiction, graphic novels and feminist nonfiction, Myriad has it all. And right now we're offering 25% off all Myriad titles – for as long as our distributors are able to, well, distribute. A little something to help get you through lockdown.



Simply order from the Myriad website, entering **MYREADATHOME** at the checkout.

And remember: UK postage is completely free, and we also post worldwide. **BUY BOOKS NOW**



## Indie press love

It's good to know that we're not the only independent publisher still able to send our books out into the world. These terrific small presses have some tremendous reads that you can order online now – and, much like Myriad, they all like to publish books that challenge the norm – take a look:

And Other Stories • **Blue Moose** • Carcanet • **Comma Press** • Galley Beggar Press • **Pluto Press** • Red Door • **Salt Publishing** • Scribe • **Unbound**



## Lockdown days

**Ottilie Hainsworth**, author of graphic memoir *Talking to Gina*, has been busy diary making during these locked-down days, and we're very much enjoying just how relatable her snippets are. Keep track on Instagram [@ottilie.hainsworth](https://www.instagram.com/ottilie.hainsworth)





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## The week in reviews

### ***To The Volcano***

by Elleke Boehmer

'...an exquisite grip on how to succinctly, simply and sensitively put across a scene, a whole soul or the smallest of gestures ... Both every day and yet so very washed in undercurrent, these stories are haunting and compelling.' – *South African Country Life*

### ***How to be Autistic***

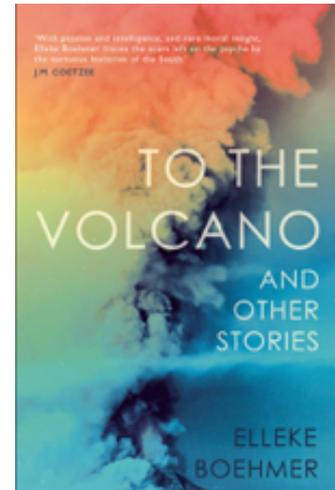
by Charlotte Amelia Poe

'A beautifully honest account of growing up autistic, despite not getting a diagnosis until their twenties, Poe counters the dominant narrative that there is one way of being autistic or that there are certain characteristics that you have to abide by in order to be diagnosed as autistic ... a really stunning collection of personal essays.' – *Yasmine Rose Reads*

### ***The Heartsick Diaspora***

by Elaine Chiew

'Chiew does a great job of telling these stories that need to be told ... An interesting and welcome change from standard, stereotypical narratives.' – *Medium*



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## My bookish life... Hannah Vincent

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 short story writer, novelist and playwright Hannah Vincent steps up to the plate. Her collection of feminist short stories, *She-Clown*, came out last month from Myriad.

***Have you formed a new routine?***

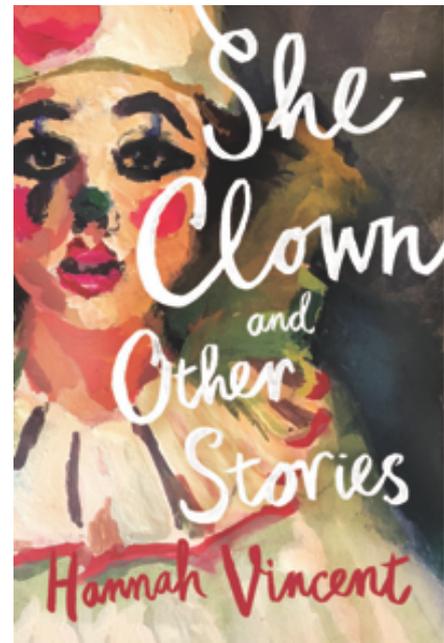
Not really – the days feel ‘looser’ but things are pretty loose in my household even in ‘normal’ times. The start of each day and the end of each day seem softer at the moment, with nothing rigid in place, yet the rules we are living by at the moment are more rigid than we are used to. Strange. I have teaching work to do but seemingly all the time in the world to do it in. This is an illusion, I know it’s not the case.

***How have your days changed?***

My days haven’t changed much. I am still doing what I usually do – reading student writing and giving feedback, prepping teaching, loading and unloading the dishwasher, loading and unloading the washing machine... Every afternoon at 4.30 I lean out of my window to listen to my neighbour practice his trumpet and wave to neighbours up and down the street. My weekly structure is blown, though, without certain work commitments to take me out of the house. I am appreciating the weird, almost vertiginous sensation of not knowing what day it is.

***What are you looking forward to?***

Poached eggs at my favourite café, **Bond Street Coffee** in Brighton. I hope they survive the economic impact of this. It will be lovely to go to the pub again, won’t it? I hardly ever go



out drinking but I'd like to know I could if I wanted to. Cinema, theatre, readings – all those cultural activities which involve embodied shared experience. I miss all the walking I usually do. I am taking daily jaunts but trying to be responsible and stay home as much as possible.

***Are you writing, and managing to stay creative?***

Yes. Writing is what writers do. The playwright Harold Pinter said a brilliant thing about how he felt about not writing – he said it feels like being in exile from yourself.

***Do you have any advice for anyone feeling creatively squashed right now, and what's helping you get back in the zone?***

A regular writing habit helps me stay in the zone, pandemic or no pandemic. I live in a small house with my freelance partner and our sons, 22 and 19 so I am well used to creating the mental conditions necessary for writing in the midst of noise and chaos. We have an extra house guest for lockdown and like most people, my concentration is shot to pieces at the moment so I am only writing for a short burst each morning. My rate of work is glacial and my output is tiny – a couple of sentences per day, which I often end up cutting or rewriting the next day. Being kind to ourselves and not beating ourselves up when the words won't come or when the writing is rubbish is important.

***What are your small daily comforts?***

TV. We are living through a pandemic and we are living in a country governed by monstrous, deceitful politicians – thank fuck we are also living in a Golden Age of telly.

***How are you keeping in touch with others?***

Texting mates, doing a weekly quiz over the phone with my father in law, zoom yoga sessions and zooming with a singing group I belong to – not the same as lifting our voices in the same physical space as one another but surprisingly successful and very moving.

**BUY SHE-CLOWN**

**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**

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## **Before you go...**

**Lucy Fry**, journalist and author of *Easier Ways to Say I Love You*, talks about coping during lockdown over on i News from the *Independent*. **READ HERE**

Zadie Smith talks about *New Daughters of Africa* and editor **Margaret Busby's** tremendous work. while in conversation with Pamela Paul for Rancho Mirae Writers Festival. **WATCH**

**HERE**

Spotlight poet **Jacqueline Haskell** talks with Aisha Phoenix from *The Mechanics' Institute Review* about her debut collection, *Stroking Cerberus: Poems from the Afterlife*. **READ  
HERE**

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