

FIFTY FORGOTTEN BOOKS



Author: R. B. Russell
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A very special sort of book about books, by a great bibliophile and for book-lovers of all ages and levels of experience. Not quite literary criticism, not quite an autobiography, it is at once a guided tour through the dusty backrooms of long vanished used bookstores, a love letter to bookshops and bookselling, and a browser's dream wish list of often overlooked and unloved novels, short story collections, poetry collections and works of nonfiction.

In these pages, R. B. Russell, publisher of Tartarus Press, doesn't only discuss the books of his life, but explains what they have meant to him over time, charting his progress as a writer and publisher for over thirty years, and a bibliophile for many more. Here is living proof of how **literature, books, and book collecting can be an intrinsic part of one's personal, professional and imaginative life**, and as not only a solitary act, but a social one, resulting in treasured friendships, experiences, and loves one might never, otherwise, have enjoyed.

Classics, poetry collections, old-fashioned crime stories, and a very interesting selection of gothic, supernatural and occult books are shown before our eyes, and reading often feels like browsing the personal shelves of a passionate and curious reader, offering his experience and his personal story together with his literary advices.

Folowing Russell's voice we discover **wounderful and precious titles too often left out from the reviews**, but more importantly we listen to the tales of how he acquired his copies. A lively carnival of **old bookstores, dusty bookshelves and hidden upper rooms**, filled with charming and delightful charachters: **the grumpy bookseller, the mythical collector, the used books merchant with a special eye for hidden gems**. In the meanwhile, we discover the life and literary adventures of the author, a man who became a well known publisher and author but never ceased to be a passionate collector.

Filled with a lively nostalgia for the era when finding strange new books meant pounding the pavement and not just searching booksellers' websites, *Fifty Forgotten Books* is for anyone who wishes they could still browse the dusty bookshelves of their youth, and who can't wait to get back out into the world in quest of the next text liable to change their life.



The author

R. B. Russell is an author, composer and publisher, co-running Tartarus Press with Rosalie Parker. As a writer, he has published three novels, four collections of short fiction and three novellas to date.

From the book

«It will be noted that I do not only discuss the texts and their authors, although these are obviously the primary consideration. The physical book has always been important to me, and I have mentioned the circumstances of discovering my copies and, where I can remember, who recommended them. A memorable edition of a book, suggested by a friend, discovered in an idiosyncratic bookshop, inevitably adds to the experience of taking it off the shelf again, perhaps decades later. In many ways my book collection today acts as an aide-memoire or diary of places I have lived in and visited, and of friends – even the booksellers who supplied them».

Blurbs

«Lovers of obscure authors and literature will welcome this eclectic collection . . . from British editor Russell. His easy, accessible style is a delight to read».

Publisher's Weekly

«Decadents, bohemians, cult musicians, the odd (very odd) spy, shady publishers, backstreet booksellers, writers of the weird and wayward, they're all here. R. B. Russell's memoir gives us literature on the edge, in all its wonderful strangeness.».

Mark Valentine

Video

On And Other Stories' website you can watch a [video of R. B. Russell talking about the story behind Fifty Forgotten Books](#).