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### 0C5 - ZAVIER MARELI

In 1992, Spark invited Martin Stannard to write her biography, offering interviews and full access to her papers. The result is this biography of the Scottish author.

"Sleek and suggestive . . . [Reality and Dreams] is so smart and seductive that you fail to notice how completely you've accepted a world gone utterly awry." —Kirkus Reviews British film director Tom Richard won acclaim for his moments of pure creative inspiration. But when Richard is hospitalized after toppling from a crane during a shoot, he awakes not knowing what is real and what is not—and with no idea who to trust. Soon his wife, children, and friends are all undergoing crises of their own, from the breakup of a marriage to the loss of a job. As Richard fights to regain his health and stay centered amid the swirling chaos of his personal life, he must also wrest control of his film—his most prized pursuit—from those who seek to take it away. Witty and engrossing, *Reality and Dreams* is a whiplash ride through the highs and lows of the creative process. This ebook features an illustrated biography of Muriel Spark including rare photos and never-before-seen documents from the author's archive at the National Library of Scotland.

From Muriel Spark, the grande dame of literary satire, comes this swift, deliciously witty tale of writerly ambition that recalls her beloved *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*. College Sunrise is a somewhat louche and vaguely disreputable finishing school located, for now, in Lausanne, Switzerland. Rowland Mahler and his wife, Nina, run the school as a way to support themselves while he works, somewhat falteringly, on his novel. Into Rowland's creative writing class comes seventeen-year-old Chris Wiley, a red-haired literary prodigy whose historical novel-in-progress, on Mary Queen of Scots, has already excited the interest of publishers. The inevitable result: keen envy, and a game of cat and mouse fraught with jealousy and attraction, both literary and sexual.

On a once burgeoning, highly cultured human colony laid waste by a plague, a handful of survivors struggles against a sexually seething artificial intelligence that has taken control of their minds. By the author of *Cybernetic Jungle*.

The Pulitzer Prize-winning "masterpiece" by the acclaimed author of *Giant* follows the life of a farming woman on the Illinois prairie (The Literary Review). In the small Dutch community of New Holland, Illinois, Selina DeJong dedicates herself to her passion for learning by becoming a schoolteacher. But as life progresses, she finds other loves: first, her husband, Pervus, a Dutch farmer; and then her son, Dirk, whom she nicknames "So Big" in reference to the common refrain: "How big is baby? So big!" Throughout her life, Selina never loses her fondness for learning and art—even as tragedy, loss, the realities of hard work, and the necessity of money threaten to eclipse all else. But as her son grows up to pursue his fortune in Chicago, can she help him retain those same values? *So Big* is the story of both a woman and her son, and a country in the midst of profound cultural transition. The winner of the 1925 Pulitzer Prize, it is widely considered author Edna Ferber's masterpiece. "It has the completeness, [the] finality, that grips and exalts and convinces." —The Literary Review

'The greatest Scottish novelist of modern times.' Ian Rankin In this first novel by Muriel Spark - author of *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* - the only things that aren't ambiguous are Spark's matchless originality and glittering wit. With an introduction by Ali Smith. Caroline Rose is plagued by the tapping of typewriter keys and the strange, detached narration of her every thought and action. She has an unusual problem - she realises she is in a novel. Her fellow characters are also possibly deluded: Laurence, her former lover, finds diamonds in a loaf of bread - could his elderly grandmother really be a smuggler? And Baron Stock, her bookseller friend, believes he is on the trail of England's leading Satanist. 'A master of malice and mayhem.' Michiko Kakutani, *New York Times* 'Brilliantly original and fascinating.' Evelyn Waugh 'A light, clever, mirthful tour de force ... It disrupts and charms its readers with its combination of wit, precision, intelligence and hilarity. As vibrant as ever, more than fifty years after its first appearance.' Ali Smith

Available at last are all the poems by one of the twentieth century's greatest British writers, Dame Muriel Spark: "a true literary artist, acerbic and exhilarating" (London Evening Standard). In the seventy-three poems collected here Muriel Spark works in open forms as well as villanelles, rondels, epigrams, and even the tour de force of a twenty-one page ballad. She also shows herself a master of unforgettable short poems. Before attaining fame as a novelist (*Memento Mori*, *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*), Muriel Spark was already an acclaimed poet. The "power and control" of her poetry, as Publishers Weekly remarked, "is almost startling." With the vitality and wit typical of all her work, Dame Muriel has

never stopped writing poems, which frequently appear in *The New Yorker*. As with all her creations, the poems show Spark to be "astonishingly talented and truly inimitable" (*The San Francisco Chronicle*).

All the Stories of Muriel Spark spans Dame Muriel Spark's entire career to date and displays all her signature stealth, originality, beauty, elegance, wit, and shock value. No writer commands so exhilarating a style -- playful and rigorous, cheerful and venomous, hilariously acute and coolly supernatural. Ranging from South Africa to the West End, her dazzling stories feature hanging judges, fortune-tellers, shy girls, psychiatrists, dress designers, pensive ghosts, imaginary chauffeurs, and persistent guests

In *Aiding and Abetting*, the doyenne of literary satire has written a wickedly amusing and subversive novel around the true-crime case of one of England's most notorious uppercrust scoundrels and the "aiders and abettors" who kept him on the loose. When Lord Lucan walks into psychiatrist Hildegard Wolf's Paris office, there is one problem: she already has a patient who says he's Lucan, the fugitive murderer who bludgeoned his children's nanny in a botched attempt to kill his wife. As Dr. Wolf sets about deciding which of her patients, if either, is the real Lucan, she finds herself in a fierce battle of wills and an exciting chase across Europe. For someone is deceiving someone, and it may be the good doctor, who, despite her unorthodox therapeutic method (she talks mainly about her own life), has a sinister past, too. Exhibiting Muriel Spark's boundless imagination and biting wit, *Aiding and Abetting* is a brisk, clever, and deliciously entertaining tale by one of Britain's greatest living novelists.

Dame Muriel Spark delivers a delightfully alarming novel, full of high society and low cunning.

AS HEARD ON BBC RADIO 4 BOOK AT BEDTIME 'A book that can be read in two hours, but will linger in the mind for decades.' Sunday Telegraph Once an officer in the Irish War for Independence, Moran is now a widower, eking out a living on a small farm where he raises his two sons and three daughters. Adrift from the structure and security of the military, he keeps control by binding his family close to him. But as his children grow older and seek independence, and as the passing years bring with them bewildering change, Moran struggles to find a balance between love and tyranny. 'One of the greatest writers of our era.' Hilary Mantel 'John McGahern is the Irish novelist everyone should read.' Colm Tóibín 'A masterpiece.' John Banville 'McGahern brings us that tonic gift of the best fiction, the sense of truth - the sense of transparency that permits us to see imaginary lives more clearly than we see our own.' John Updike

Presents a collection of ghost stories, including "The Hanging Judge," "The Seraph and the Zambesi," and "The Portobello Road."

Teresa's elderly, willful father drags her off to India to spare her from the clutches of her mother.

"Long ago in 1945 all the nice people in England were poor, allowing for exceptions," begins *The Girls of Slender Means*, Dame Muriel Spark's tragic and rapier-witted portrait of a London ladies' hostel just emerging from the shadow of World War II. Like the *May of Teck Club* itself—"three times window shattered since 1940 but never directly hit"—its lady inhabitants do their best to act as if the world were back to normal: practicing elocution, and jostling over suitors and a single Schiaparelli gown. The novel's harrowing ending reveals that the girls' giddy literary and amorous peregrinations are hiding some tragically painful war wounds. Chosen by Anthony Burgess as one of the Best Modern Novels in the *Sunday Times* of London, *The Girls of Slender Means* is a taut and eerily perfect novel by an author *The New York Times* has called "one of this century's finest creators of comic-metaphysical entertainment."

*London Fictions* is a book about London, real and imagined. Two dozen contemporary writers, from Cathi Unsworth to Courtia Newland, reflect on some of the novelists and the novels that have helped define the modern city, from George Gissing to Zadie Smith, Hangover Square to Brick Lane. It is a book about East End boys and West End girls, bedsit land and dockland, the homeless and the homesick, immigrants and emigrants. All human life is here - highminded Hampstead and boozy Fitzrovia, the Jewish East End, intellectual Bloomsbury and Chinese Limehouse, Black London, Asian London, Irish London, Gay London...

In January 2021, Instagram followers were invited to message author David Tensen with a life story they wanted made into a poem. More than 60 people wrote in with stories spanning divorce, loss, trauma, parenting, ableism, same-sex attraction, suicide, PTSD, parenting, religious shame and more. Drawing from deep empathy, and with a desire to give dignity and voice to those often shamed and ostracised, David wrote a collection of poems ev-

ery day for twenty-one days. This special collection of 25 poems is a tribute to the common loss and hope we all share. This is David's second poetry collection. His best-selling debut 2020 collection, *The Wrestle*, is also available worldwide The following is a poem from the collection. It features in the chapter, 'On Marriage': FOR THE ONE WHO WAS BETRAYED (To the betrayer) There is a tree by our home that fell in a storm on the path I walked to belonging. I assumed this was our path, and perhaps it was, but the storm - that was your betrayal. Torn from the earth. Branches broken. Leaves strewn like confetti on our wedding day. Roots, now exposed, shamefully waving at passers-by, remind me of what was sown in secret. Trunk, now splintered, piercing those who dare to pry, remind me of your unrepentant reasoning. I've been tempted, more than once, to nest in the wreckage but you won't find me there. Instead, I'll be in the forest forging new paths through forgiveness and a fog of grief, vowing to love myself more than you ever did. David Tensen

An exhilarating, brutal, comedic masterpiece--an American classic that will "leave you so giddy you'll go and kick sand in somebody's face" (Houston Post)

A slender satirical gem from the "master of malice and mayhem" (*The New York Times*) *The Ballad of Peckham Rye* is a wickedly farcical tale of an English factory town turned upside-down by a Scot who may or may not be in league with the Devil. Dougal Douglas is hired to do "human research" into the lives of the workers, Douglas stirs up mutiny and murder.

Two lives, stretched between two cities, converge in a chance meeting that has immediate and far-reaching consequences, in this compelling, sophisticated work from an acclaimed "New Yorker" writer.

From the cruel irony of 'A member of the Family' to the fateful echoes of 'The Go-Away Bird' and the unexpectedly sinister 'The Girl I Left Behind Me', in settings that range from South Africa to the Portobello Road, Muriel Spark coolly probes the idiosyncrasies that lurk beneath the veneer of human respectability, displaying the acerbic wit and wisdom that are the hallmarks of her unique talent. *The Complete Short Stories* is a collection to be loved and cherished, from one of the finest short-story writers of the twentieth century.

In a post-war London boarding house, kindly Mrs. Hawkins, adept at handling other people's problems, finds herself a player in some very strange events

From an award-winning author, a novel about a Vietnamese American family's ties to *The Little House on the Prairie* Jobless with a PhD, Lee Lien returns home to her Chicago suburb from grad school, only to find herself contending with issues she's evaded since college. But when her brother disappears, he leaves behind an object from their mother's Vietnam past that stirs up a forgotten childhood dream: a gold-leaf brooch, abandoned by an American reporter in Saigon back in 1965, that might be an heirloom belonging to Laura Ingalls Wilder. As Lee explores the tenuous facts of this connection, she unearths more than expected—a trail of clues and enticements that lead her from the dusty stacks of library archives to hilarious prairie life reenactments and ultimately to San Francisco, where her findings will transform strangers' lives as well as her own. A dazzling literary mystery about the true origins of a time-tested classic, *Pioneer Girl* is also the deeply moving tale of a second-generation Vietnamese daughter, the parents she struggles to honor, the missing brother she is expected to bring home—even as her discoveries yield dramatic insights that will free her to live her own life to its full potential.

Muriel Spark's bracingly salty memoir is a no-holds-barred trip through an extraordinary writer's life.

"A perfect book"—and basis for the Maggie Smith film—about a teacher who makes a lasting impression on her female students in the years before World War II (*Chicago Tribune*). "Give me a girl at an impressionable age, and she is mine for life!" So asserts Jean Brodie, a magnetic, dubious, and sometimes comic teacher at the conservative Marcia Blaine School for Girls in Edinburgh. Brodie selects six favorite pupils to mold—and she doesn't stop with just their intellectual lives. She has a plan for them all, including how they will live, whom they will love, and what sacrifices they will make to uphold her ideals. When the girls reach adulthood and begin to find their own destinies, Jean Brodie's indelible imprint is a gift to some, and a curse to others. *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* is Spark's masterpiece, a novel that offers one of twentieth-century English literature's most iconic and complex characters—a woman at once admirable and sinister, benevolent and conniving. This ebook features an illustrated biography of Muriel Spark including rare photos and never-before-seen documents from the author's archive at the National Library of Scotland.

Will a child of Society have the backbone to love a tough, wild west cowboy? For adventurous Margaret Flemming, arrived from Boston to be with her father, the Old West town of her childhood is a far cry from the drawing rooms and balls of the high society life she's used to. Her fancy gowns and proper manners have no place in the dusty, cruel land inhabited by Indians and rough cowboys. And her fiercely independent streak constantly gets her in trouble. When tragedy strikes, there's only one person she can turn to--her childhood friend, Garret Shaw--but he's disgusted with her Society ways. With his ranch under attack from the land-grabbing Jennings, the last thing Garret needs is to be saddled with a high-falutin' lady. Even if she is his friend's daughter and her kind ways tug at his hardened heart. Duty to her father forces them to wed, but he knows sure as anything, when the chance comes along, she'll go back to Boston. No matter how much he wants her, loving her is not a risk he can take. Will Maggie choose a life of luxury and ease over struggle and hardship with an ill-mannered cowboy? Only her heart can answer. CONTENT WARNING: A potty-mouthed proper lady, a reluctant bridegroom and all kinds of trouble.

A tale of a woman's romantic entanglements with two anthropologists—and the odd mating habits of humans—from the author of *Jane and Prudence*. Catherine Oliphant writes for women's magazines and lives comfortably with anthropologist Tom Mallow—although she's starting to wonder if they'll ever get married. Then Tom drops his bombshell: He's leaving her for a nineteen-year-old student. Though stunned by Tom's betrayal, Catherine quickly becomes fascinated by another anthropologist, Alaric Lydgate, a reclusive eccentric recently returned from Africa. As Catherine starts to weigh her options, she must figure out who she is and what she really wants. With a lively cast of characters and a witty look at the insular world of academia, this novel from the much-loved author of *Excellent Women* and other modern classics is filled with poignant, playful observations about the traits that separate us from our anthropological forebears—far fewer than we may imagine.

The mid-twentieth century British novelist Elizabeth Taylor num-

bered among her admirers Elizabeth Bowen, Ivy Compton-Burnett, and Kingsley Amis. She also regularly published stories in *The New Yorker* for close to two decades. For all that, her work, as steely as it is delicate, remains the secret of a small number of intensely devoted readers. The publication of her finest novel, *A Game of Hide and Seek*, long unavailable in the United States, should help to change that. This is an unabashed love story, capturing all the uncertainty and inevitability and deceptiveness of true love, tracking the shifting currents of emotional life, and never yielding to melodrama. Set in Britain between the wars, a time of transition between old convention and new ways, the book has for a heroine Harriet, the only child of a suffragette, whom we meet as a shy and domestic and not especially smart or pretty girl. At eighteen she falls in love with Vesey, but after Vesey must go away, she marries another man, Charles, and bears a child. Then Vesey returns. Love is at the center of the book, but so too is Taylor's extraordinary knack for depicting characters. The minor figures in the book—from Harriet's mother's friend Caroline, with her progressive politics, to Charles, his coworkers, and his mother, to Betsy with her schoolgirl crush on her Greek teacher—are as memorable as the passion and heartache of Harriet and Vesey.

Robert wants nothing more than to become a serious art historian. But his hopes for a staid academic life are put on hold when he's driven from London to Venice to escape one lover and seek out another: the enigmatic Bulgarian refugee Lina Pancev. In Venice, Robert encounters a grand carnival of lust, lies, blackmail, cocktail parties, and regicide. As he chases Lina, his heart's desire, the city itself provides a priceless education in love, art, and beauty. Witty yet elegant, *Territorial Rights* is a celebration of human imperfection and complexity, with as many shifting identities, wardrobe changes, and sumptuous settings as a comic opera.

'Dan Rhodes is a true original' - Hilary Mantel When the sleepy English village of Green Bottom hosts its first literary festival, the good, the bad and the ugly of the book world descend upon its leafy lanes. But the villagers are not prepared for the peculiar habits,

petty rivalries and unspeakable desires of the authors. And they are certainly not equipped to deal with Wilberforce Selfram, the ghoulish, ageing enfant terrible who wreaks havoc wherever he goes. *Sour Grapes* is a hilarious satire on the literary world which takes no prisoners as it skewers authors, agents, publishers and reviewers alike.

This is a satirical fantasy about ecclesiastical and other kinds of politics. The author has also written *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* and *Girls of Slender Means*.

A wealthy academic's life shatters when his estranged wife becomes the suspected leader of a terrorist organization. Having led a successful, comfortable life, Harvey Gotham retires to the French countryside to pursue bookish obsessions—namely, a long monograph on the Book of Job, the biblical narrative of faith in the face of extraordinary suffering. But Gotham's intellectual interests soon bleed into his daily life when a series of misfortunes, from a destructive affair to his wife's involvement with an extremist group, threaten to destroy everything he holds dear. Hailed by the *New York Times* as "an extremely sophisticated account of the perils that surround our unsuspecting lives in the world today," *The Only Problem* balances Spark's unique blend of razor-sharp satire and moral introspection in one fast-paced, absorbing novel. This ebook features an illustrated biography of Muriel Spark including rare photos and never-before-seen documents from the author's archive at the National Library of Scotland.

Collects essays, reviews, and journal articles which analyze life, literature, faith, and other topics.

While battling against her greatest enemies, a warrior princess is torn between her fierce desire for an arrogant knight and her feelings for a powerful dragon. Original.

Where does art start or reality end? Happily loitering about London, c. 1949, with the intent of gathering material for her writing, Fleur Talbot finds a job "on the grubby edge of the literary world" at the very peculiar Autobiographical Association. Mad egomaniacs writing their memoirs in advance — or poor fools ensnared by a blackmailer? When the association's pompous director steals Fleur's manuscript, fiction begins to appropriate life.