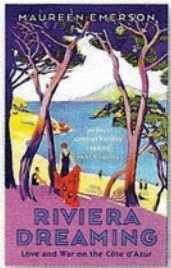


REVIEWS

Books



OUT NOW
RIVIERA DREAMING: Love and War on the Côte D'Azur by **Maureen Emerson** (IB Tauris, £20)

★★★★★

This vibrant book casts fresh light on the history of the French Riviera, through the life of Barry Dierks, an American architect who rose to fame in the 1920s. Together with his British partner, Eric Sawyer, they built Le Trident, an iconic Modernist house, and went on to shape the Art Deco landscape of the Côte d'Azur.

Emerson chronicles a generation traumatised by the First World War, and intent on having a good time in a place far more liberal than America or England.

Emerson's research is complemented by a starry cast of characters, including those who commissioned Dierks's work (from Somerset Maugham and Maxine Elliot to Hollywood mogul Jack Warner). Politicians, film stars and European royalty came to the Riviera to escape scandal or to recuperate: Coco

Chanel lived there with her lover, the Duke of Westminster; Winston Churchill came to paint; the former King Edward VIII to live in exile and, decades

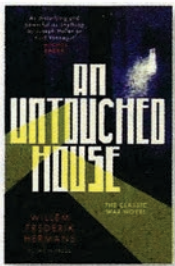
later, Grace Kelly introduced a new jet-set when she married Prince Rainier of Monaco. Alongside these household names, lesser-known but no less interesting figures are introduced to the reader, such as Beatrice Cartwright, an American heiress whose loose morals excited rather than shocked.

Juicy and informative anecdotes enliven the narrative. Descriptive, witty and often shocking, this book captures the imagination. The perfect companion for armchair travelling.
Lyndsy Spence

DRAGON LORDS: The History and Legends of Viking England by **Eleanor Parker** (IB Tauris, £20)

★★★★★

Every schoolchild knows that Alfred the Great burnt the cakes and defeated the Vikings at the battle of Ashdown in 871. Over the next century, the kingdom of Wessex gained control of most of England. Less well known is that further invasions in the 10th century saw the Vikings taking control when Canute (of ordering back the waves fame) ruled both England and Scandinavia. Over this time, a community developed that was neither English nor Scandinavian, but a hybrid of the two cultures.



WHICH BOOK BEGINS...

'Early in the morning, late in the century, Cricklewood Broadway'

Answer on page 81



Childhood

PUTNEY by Sofka Zinovieff (Bloomsbury Circus, £12.99)

When handsome 27-year-old Ralph first meets sprightly, beautiful Daphne, aged nine, and her father, his musical collaborator, the boy falls... in love. But the girl is a child. Better to say he falls in love with this story of the 1970s. It's a tale of Ralph's meticulous grooming of Daphne's bespoke four-year-old hair, called grooming - Daphne is in love/obsession too.

Those of us who live in the 21st century know that so-called lip curling is pushed as a mark of vanity in the 1970s. Daphne's bohemian father is hardly in loco but busily pursuing his romantic lives and projects. The book has such a tale been told from the point of view of the child. Ralph, and his friend Jane, also take part in the events. Both as the events unfold, we see later from the perspective of Daphne so much that then see the events look merely seedy and unremarkable. The narrative, as motivated by Daphne, are retrospectively re-created against backdrops ranging from the Channel Islands and Putney.

Was Ralph genuinely in love? At key points, the relationship is seen from a lofty, in its own way... perspective. Daphne is manipulated as expertly. Unputdownable: a modern classic.
Mary Killen

Oxford scholar Eleanor Parker explores the origin-myths from these Anglo-Danes. She describes some of the earliest legends that grew to legitimise the