

POETRY

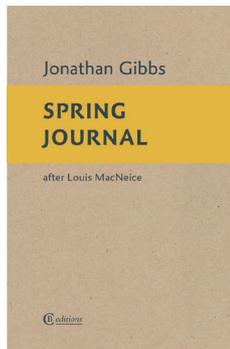
**Jonathan Gibbs** *Spring Journal*

after Louis MacNeice

Louis MacNeice's *Autumn Journal*, written August to December 1938, was an immediate personal response to the public events of those months and the mood on the streets. 'It is the nature of this poem,' a prefatory note declared, 'to be neither final nor balanced.'

In *Spring Journal*, written between March and late August 2020, the novelist Jonathan Gibbs replies to MacNeice and redeploys his form in an urgent, fluent act of witness to the events of this Covid year. Angry, desperately sad, self-aware, sceptical about what writing is for, the book is both a week-by-week record and a poem 'carved from chaos'.

'It's a triumph. Line after line sings with truth.'  
– Linda Grant



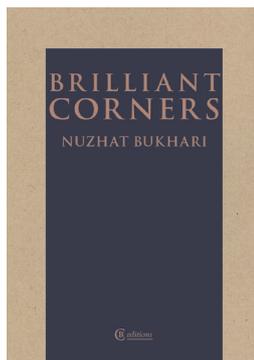
December 2020  
pbk, 198 x 129 mm; 82 pages  
978-1-909585-37-9; £8.99



**Nuzhat Bukhari** *Brilliant Corners*

*Brilliant Corners* is both an inquiry into and a redressal of inherited cultures and the language that trips off our tongue. Its preoccupations are the tangible damage inflicted by empires, plunder of the global money markets, disfigured lives, and the bitter salvages of Western privilege. Engaging with writers and artists in the European canon, in a wide range of forms the poems take necessary risks in their scrupulous approach to different experiences.

'It is fearless and challenging truth-telling: full of courage and skill.' – Bernard O'Donoghue



May 2021  
pbk, 210 x 150 mm; 102 pages  
978-1-909585-36-2; £10.00

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Photo (detail) by Nuzhat Bukhari (from *Brilliant Corners*)

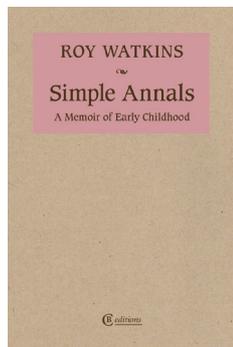
NON-FICTION: MEMOIRS

**Roy Watkins** *Simple Annals*

One morning in 1969 Roy Watkins woke up to find words on the sheet of paper he had left in his typewriter before going to sleep: 'an incoherent jumble of apparently unconnected phrases about fire, explosions, soldiers, and railway lines.'

The words recorded an event in Watkins's life that took place before his third birthday. *Simple Annals* is informed by these and other images and memories that surfaced over the following years: the sounds and songs, scrapes and surprises, of childhood in an ordinary but loving family in Lancashire in the 1940s and early 50s, brought to the page with an almost pre-verbal immediacy.

'What I most admire is his emotional delicacy and perceptiveness.' – Ruth Fainlight



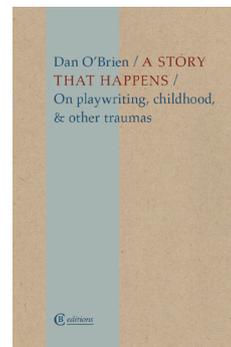
February 2021  
pbk, 198 x 129 mm; 136 pages  
978-1-909585-39-3; £8.99

NON-FICTION: WRITERS & READERS

**Dan O'Brien** *A Story that Happens*  
*On playwrighting, childhood, & other traumas*

*We were evicted. We took to the streets, Pentecostal, with our tongues of fire. We toppled the statues of historical characters we barely remembered because we could not forget. We were reminded that every story happens before it can be told. We were perplexed, to say the least.*  
– July 2020

Drawing on O'Brien's experience of cancer and of childhood abuse, and on his ongoing collaboration with a war reporter, the four essays in *A Story that Happens* – first written as craft lectures for the Sewanee Writers' Conference and the US Air Force Academy – offer hard-won insights into what stories are for and the reasons why, 'afraid and hopeful', we begin to tell them.



April 2021  
pbk, 198 x 129 mm; 106 pages  
978-1-909585-38-6; £8.99 RRP

**Leila Berg** *Flickerbook*

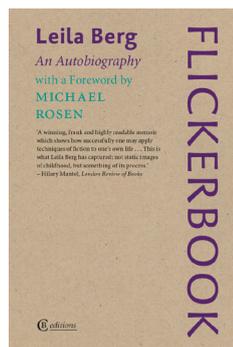
Foreword by Michael Rosen

'A strikingly original autobiography, vivid and poetic, funny, sensuous and searingly raw.' – *TES*

'This is what Leila Berg has captured; not static images of childhood, but something of its process.'  
– Hilary Mantel, *London Review of Books*

First published in 1997 and re-issued in 2021 by CBe, *Flickerbook* is the classic autobiography of the writer Leila Berg (1917–2012). It recreates her childhood pleasures and fears, her delight in music and books, and her growing political engagement. It ends in September 1939 as an air-raid siren sounds in London.

'This may be the autobiography of one little girl, from baby bridesmaid to Young Communist rebel losing two lovers to the Spanish Civil War, but it has a universal quality – you'll be catapulted straight back to your own childhood.' – *She*

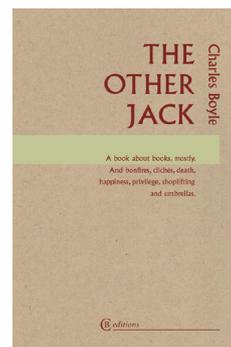


June 2021  
pbk, 198 x 129 mm; 244 pages  
978-1-909585-40-9; £10.00

**Charles Boyle** *The Other Jack*  
*A book about books, mostly*

'I can't think of a wittier, more engaging, stylistically audacious, attentive and generous writer working in the English language right now.'  
– Nicholas Lezard in the *Guardian* on Jack Robinson

The other Jack is Charles Boyle, a writer whose conversations with a much younger reader range over what we talk about when we talk about books: bicycles, bonfires, clichés, death, genre, happiness, justice, money, pen names, privilege, rejections, shoplifting, umbrellas . . .



July 2021  
pbk, 198 x 129 mm; 160 pages  
978-1-909585-41-6; £8.99 RRP

PLUS, IN SEPTEMBER 2021:

*Seesaw*, a novel by Carmel Doohan