

An Unexpected Light Travels In Afghanistan

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CLARK MATHEWS

ON THE UNEXPECTED ORIGINS OF RADICAL IDEAS

Penguin

An American photojournalist, disillusioned by the pressures and mindlessness of Western education and consumerism, journeys with a friend to the East looking for fun and adventure. In India she unexpectedly finds truth and knowledge beyond the intellect,

beauty and hope beyond the mundane. Slowly, unexpected love softens her skepticism. Her life is never the same.

THE OVERNIGHT GUEST

Bloomsbury Publishing

An exploration of Afghanistan -- its physical beauty, hospitality, religious variations, and long history. Elliot recounts events from his first visit at age nineteen in 1986 traveling with anti-Soviet mujahedin, and another journey ten years later when the Taliban forces were building power.

Travels in Afghanistan Entangled: Embrace

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • Discover the life-changing memoir that has inspired millions of readers through the Academy Award®-winning actor's unflinching honesty, unconventional wisdom, and lessons learned the hard way about living with greater satisfaction. NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY THE GUARDIAN "McConaughey's book invites us to grapple with the lessons of his life as he did—and to see that the point was never to win, but to understand."—Mark Manson, author of *The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F*ck* I've been in this life for fifty years, been trying to work out its riddle for forty-two, and been keeping diaries of clues to that riddle for the last thirty-five.

Notes about successes and failures, joys and sorrows, things that made me marvel, and things that made me laugh out loud. How to be fair. How to have less stress. How to have fun. How to hurt people less. How to get hurt less. How to be a good man. How to have meaning in life. How to be more me. Recently, I worked up the courage to sit down with those diaries. I found stories I experienced, lessons I learned and forgot, poems, prayers, prescriptions, beliefs about what matters, some great photographs, and a whole bunch of bumper stickers. I found a reliable theme, an approach to living that gave me more satisfaction, at the time, and still: If you know how, and when, to deal with life's challenges—how to get relative with the inevitable—you can enjoy a state of success I call “catching greenlights.” So I took a one-way ticket to the desert and wrote this book: an album, a record, a story of my life so far. This is fifty years of my sights and seens, felts and figured-outs, cools and shamefuls. Graces, truths, and beauties of brutality. Getting away withs, getting caughts, and getting wets while trying to dance between the raindrops. Hopefully, it's medicine that tastes good, a couple of aspirin instead of the infirmary, a spaceship to Mars without needing your pilot's license, going to church without having to be born again, and laughing through the tears. It's a love letter. To life. It's also a guide to catching more greenlights—and to realizing that the yellows and reds eventually turn green too. Good luck.

Journeys in Iran Anchor

Ever since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1978, this mysterious, romantic country has been shrouded in obscurity. As the Soviets forbade western reporters to enter the war zone and the Afghan fighters, the mujaheddin, found themselves inaccurately portrayed as savage, religious zealots, Afghanistan quietly slipped off the front page and into media obscurity. This veiled the hundreds of thousands of Afghans who lost their lives and the third of the population that fled into exile. However, in the schoolboy imagination of Jason Elliot back in the late 1970s, Afghanistan took a profound hold: "The Afghans seemed to belong to a different world, for which I was developing an inarticulate hunger; a people of prototypical human dignity, with Old Testament faces, who with guns almost as ancient as themselves were trying (and succeeding) to shoot down the latest in helicopter gunships". Still in his teens, Elliot set off for Kabul

and the result, nearly 20 years later, is *Unexpected Light*, the remarkable account of Elliot's travels in this extraordinary country, first in the midst of Soviet occupation and then in the face of the rise of the Taliban to power in the 1990s. *Unexpected Light* takes its title from Elliot's enduring wonder at his first encounter with Kabul, where "even as we stepped into its unaccustomed brightness that first morning, it seemed probable we had entered a world in some way enchanted, for which we lacked the proper measure". It is this inability to completely capture a country and a people with which Elliot falls in love that characterises this ambitious, sprawling book. Elliot's travels are truly extraordinary, from his teenage experiences with the mujaheddin in their campaigns against the Soviets to his truly hair-raising travels to the north of the country and often very funny evocation of the expatriate community of war-torn Kabul. However, in describing his travels Elliot also meditates among other things on the significance of travel, the tortured multicultural history of Afghanistan, "the results of successive clashings together of an impressive list of civilisations" and the worldly mysticism of Sufism. At times Elliot takes on too much, the prose becomes too lush and poetically congested and the book could have done with sharp editorial pruning, as it feels at least 50 pages too long at its close. Nevertheless, it is this diffuse nature that makes *Unexpected Light* such a vivid and original piece of travel writing, based on a series of dramatic adventures. What emerges throughout is the remarkable generosity and placidity of a people who have been more accidentally enmeshed in violent conflict than congenitally predisposed towards embracing warfare.

[An Unexpected U.S. History in Thirteen Bestselling Books](#) Penguin
"Many know Kimberly Williams-Paisley as the bride in the popular Steve Martin remakes of the *Father of the Bride* movies, the calculating Peggy Kenter on Nashville, or the wife of country megastar Brad Paisley. But in 2014, Williams-Paisley revealed a ... secret: her mother had been diagnosed with a rare form of dementia called Primary Progressive Aphasia at the age of sixty-one. In [this memoir], Williams-Paisley tells the full story of her mother's illness, from diagnosis through the present-day, drawing on her memories of her relationship with the fascinating, complicated, and successful woman who raised her"--
[Travels with Charley in Search of America](#) Elizabeth Lennox

Books, LLC

Some extraordinary rats come to the aid of a mouse family in this Newbery Medal Award-winning classic by notable children's author Robert C. O'Brien. Mrs. Frisby, a widowed mouse with four small children, is faced with a terrible problem. She must move her family to their summer quarters immediately, or face almost certain death. But her youngest son, Timothy, lies ill with pneumonia and must not be moved. Fortunately, she encounters the rats of NIMH, an extraordinary breed of highly intelligent creatures, who come up with a brilliant solution to her dilemma. And Mrs. Frisby in turn renders them a great service.

[An Unexpected Fortune](#) CreateSpace

The world is about to change... In the months leading up to 9/11 the intelligence community is on high alert for terrorist threats. Former army officer Anthony Taverner is recruited by the Secret Intelligence Service for an apparently straightforward mission: to destroy a cache of the CIA's precious Stinger missiles in Taliban-held Afghanistan. But in the kaleidoscopic world of spying, nothing is what it seems. And as the struggle to avert a catastrophe begins, Taverner's allegiance is to an authority he must keep secret from even his closest allies...

[The Final Six](#) Createspace Independent Publishing Platform

The New York Times Bestseller and A Reese's Book Club Pick
"This love story between Lucy & Gabe spans decades and continents as two star-crossed lovers try to return to each other...Will they ever meet again? This book kept me up at night, turning the pages to find out, and the ending did not disappoint."—Reese Witherspoon "One Day meets Me Before You meets your weekend bag."—The Skimm
"Extraordinary."—Emily Giffin He was the first person to inspire her, to move her, to truly understand her. Was he meant to be the last? Lucy is faced with a life-altering choice. But before she can make her decision, she must start her story—their story—at the very beginning. Lucy and Gabe meet as seniors at Columbia University on a day that changes both of their lives forever. Together, they decide they want their lives to mean something, to matter. When they meet again a year later, it seems fated—perhaps they'll find life's meaning in each other. But then Gabe becomes a photojournalist assigned to the Middle East and Lucy pursues a career in New York. What follows is a thirteen-year journey of dreams, desires, jealousies, betrayals, and, ultimately,

of love. Was it fate that brought them together? Is it choice that has kept them away? Their journey takes Lucy and Gabe continents apart, but never out of each other's hearts. This devastatingly romantic debut novel about the enduring power of first love, with a shocking, unforgettable ending, is *Love Story* for a new generation. "It's the epic love story of 2017."—Redbook

The Unexpected Everything Penguin

The most comprehensive and gripping account of the Afghan war, by a BBC journalist. The war in Afghanistan is over ten years old. It has cost countless lives and hundreds of billions of pounds. Politicians talk of progress, but the violence is worse than ever. In this powerful and shocking exposé from the front lines in Helmand province, leading journalist and documentary-maker Ben Anderson (HBO, Panorama, and Dispatches) shows just how bad it has got. Detailing battles that last for days, only to be fought again weeks later, Anderson witnesses IED explosions and sniper fire, amid disturbing incompetence and corruption among the Afghan army and police. Also revealing the daily struggle to win over the long-suffering local population, who often express open support for the Taliban, *No Worse Enemy* is a heartbreaking insight into the chaos at the heart of the region. Raising urgent questions about our supposed achievements and the politicians' desire for a hasty exit, Anderson highlights the vast gulf that exists between what we are told and what is actually happening on the ground. A product of five years' unrivalled access to UK forces and US Marines, this is the most intimate and horrifying account of the Afghan war ever published.

Project Hail Mary Macmillan

The sole survivor on a desperate, last-chance mission to save both humanity and the earth, Ryland Grace is hurtled into the depths of space when he must conquer an extinction-level threat to our species.

A Novel Macmillan

A creative travel guide for anywhere, this handy deck includes 75 cards to inspire exploration. With a unique mix of concrete actions and whimsical prompts—from "Ask the next person you meet where his/her favorite street is. Go there" to "Write down what you like about this city on a small piece of paper. Leave it where someone else will find it later"—Anywhere encourages users to see things differently while discovering both new and familiar places."

Stories Crown

The author of *Ten Poems to Change Your Life* challenges popular misconceptions about Iran's youth culture, describing his visits to regions that inspired Rumi and Hafez, where he learned about the rich histories, cuisines and arts that comprise everyday life.

The Day of the Triffids Rosetta Books

A literary travelogue combining history, anecdote, and cultural analysis explores the rich heritage of Persian culture, offering a multifaceted portrait of the art, architecture, culture, and people of Iran. Reprint. 25,000 first printing.

ANYWHERE TRAVEL GUIDE

NavPress

Set in the near future, this action-packed YA novel—already optioned by Sony Pictures—will take readers out of this world and on a quest to become one of six teens sent on a mission to Jupiter's moon. This is the next must-read for fans of *Illuminae* and *The Martian*. When Leo and Naomi are drafted, along with twenty-two of the world's brightest teenagers, into the International Space Training Camp, their lives are forever changed. Overnight, they become global celebrities in contention for one of the six slots to travel to Europa—Jupiter's moon—and establish a new colony, leaving their planet forever. With Earth irreparably damaged, the future of the human race rests on their shoulders. For Leo, an Italian championship swimmer, this kind of purpose is a reason to go on after losing his family. But Naomi, an Iranian-American science genius, is suspicious of the ISTC and the fact that a similar mission failed under mysterious circumstances, killing the astronauts onboard. She fears something equally sinister awaiting the Final Six beneath Europa's surface. In this cutthroat atmosphere, surrounded by strangers from around the world, Naomi finds an unexpected friend in Leo. As the training tests their limits, Naomi and Leo's relationship deepens with each life-altering experience they encounter. But it's only when the finalists become fewer and their destinies grow nearer that the two can fathom the full weight of everything at stake: the world, the stars, and their lives.

The Story of Paypal and the Entrepreneurs Who Shaped Silicon Valley An Unexpected Light Travels in Afghanistan

The world is about to change... In the months leading up to 9/11 the intelligence community is on high alert for terrorist threats. Former army officer Anthony Taverner is recruited by the Secret

Intelligence Service for an apparently straightforward mission: to destroy a cache of the CIA's precious Stinger missiles in Taliban-held Afghanistan. But in the kaleidoscopic world of spying, nothing is what it seems. And as the struggle to avert a catastrophe begins, Taverner's allegiance is to an authority he must keep secret from even his closest allies...

LOSING MY MOTHER ONLY TO FIND HER AGAIN

Penguin

The classic postapocalyptic thriller with "all the reality of a vividly realized nightmare" (*The Times*, London). Triffids are odd, interesting little plants that grow in everyone's garden. Triffids are no more than mere curiosities—until an event occurs that alters human life forever. What seems to be a spectacular meteor shower turns into a bizarre, green inferno that blinds everyone and renders humankind helpless. What follows is even stranger: spores from the inferno cause the triffids to suddenly take on a life of their own. They become large, crawling vegetation, with the ability to uproot and roam about the country, attacking humans and inflicting pain and agony. William Masen somehow managed to escape being blinded in the inferno, and now after leaving the hospital, he is one of the few survivors who can see. And he may be the only one who can save his species from chaos and eventual extinction. . . . With more than a million copies sold, *The Day of the Triffids* is a landmark of speculative fiction, and "an outstanding and entertaining novel" (*Library Journal*). "A thoroughly English apocalypse, it rivals H. G. Wells in conveying how the everyday invaded by the alien would feel. No wonder Stephen King admires Wyndham so much." —Ramsey Campbell "One of my all-time favorite novels. It's absolutely convincing, full of little telling details, and that sweet, warm sensation of horror and mystery." —Joe R. Lansdale

AN UNEXPECTED AFFAIR

Bloomsbury Publishing

Will her shameful secret be exposed? Evie Katner has a shameful secret. One that forced her to abandon a very successful acting career. But now she's back and...and she wants this role! It was perfect for her! It was everything she needed to prove her place as a serious actor! The only thing...she had to trick the director/producer into giving her the part. Brock Severson is

furious when he realizes that the woman who tried out for the role is none other than Evely Katner. She left the industry under a cloud of shame. No one knew why she'd left the acting world – but rumors were rampant! He couldn't allow Evie to ruin his film but...but she's perfect for the role. Evie brought more to the complicated role than he could have hoped for! Plus, he's stunned at how much he wanted her! Could he keep his mind on the job when his body wanted nothing more than to ignore the past and risk it all with the dangerous Evie?

A MEMOIR

HarperCollins

When a scandal surrounding her father upsets all her carefully laid plans for her future, Andie must learn to accept a new relationship with her father and to embrace a little chaos in her life.

The Network Anchor Canada

In this book, we have hand-picked the most sophisticated, unanticipated, absorbing (if not at times crackpot!), original and musing book reviews of "An Unexpected Light: Travels in Afghanistan." Don't say we didn't warn you: these reviews are known to shock with their unconventionality or intimacy. Some

may be startled by their biting sincerity; others may be spellbound by their unbridled flights of fantasy. Don't buy this book if: 1. You don't have nerves of steel. 2. You expect to get pregnant in the next five minutes. 3. You've heard it all.

The Unexpected Lives of the World's Most Successful Insects W. W. Norton & Company

"An elegant, meticulously researched, and eminently readable history of the books that define us as Americans. For history buffs and book-lovers alike, McHugh offers us a precious gift."—Jake Halpern, Pulitzer Prize winner and New York Times bestselling author "With her usual eye for detail and knack for smart storytelling, Jess McHugh takes a savvy and sensitive look at the 'secret origins' of the books that made and defined us. . . . You won't want to miss a one moment of it."—Brian Jay Jones, author of *Becoming Dr. Seuss* and the New York Times bestselling *Jim Henson* The true, fascinating, and remarkable history of thirteen books that defined a nation Surprising and delightfully engrossing, *Americanon* explores the true history of thirteen of the nation's most popular books. Overlooked for centuries, our simple dictionaries, spellers, almanacs, and how-to manuals are the unexamined touchstones for American cultures and customs. These books sold tens of millions of copies and set out specific

archetypes for the ideal American, from the self-made entrepreneur to the humble farmer. Benjamin Franklin's *Autobiography*, *How to Win Friends and Influence People*, *Webster's Dictionary*, *Emily Post's Etiquette: Americanon* looks at how these ubiquitous books have updated and reemphasized potent American ideals—about meritocracy, patriotism, or individualism—at crucial moments in history. Old favorites like the *Old Farmer's Almanac* and *Betty Crocker's Picture Cook Book* are seen in this new way—not just as popular books but as foundational texts that shaped our understanding of the American story. Taken together, these books help us understand how their authors, most of them part of a powerful minority, attempted to construct meaning for the majority. Their beliefs and quirks—as well as personal interests, prejudices, and often strange personalities—informed the values and habits of millions of Americans, woven into our cultural DNA over generations of reading and dog-eating. Yet their influence remains uninvestigated—until now. What better way to understand a people than to look at the books they consumed most, the ones they returned to repeatedly, with questions about everything from spelling to social mobility to sex. This fresh and engaging book is American history as you've never encountered it before.

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