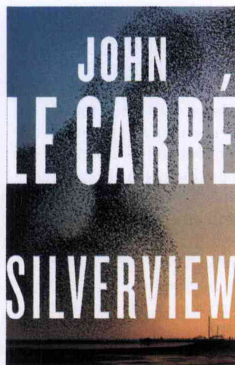


IN THE DEEP MIDWINTER

Richard Hopton selects some books for Christmas



FICTION

Silverview (Viking, £20) is John Le Carré's last completed novel. Le Carré, who died last year, perfected the modern spy novel and this is an enjoyable and wholly characteristic coda to his remarkable career.

MEMOIR

Tove Jansson's **Notes from an Island** (Sort of Books, £12.99) is a charming account of life on

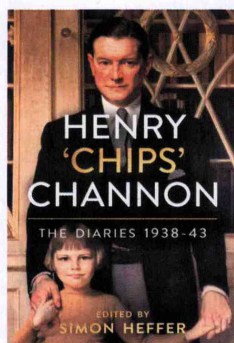
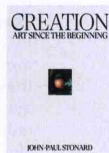


Klovharun, a tiny rocky island in the Gulf of Finland. It's the simple life, distilled.

ART HISTORY

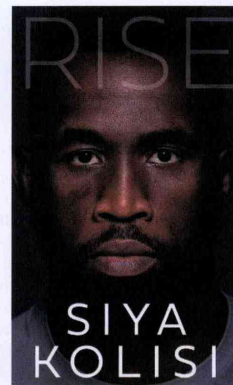
The artistic impulse is an essential human instinct. **Creation** (Bloomsbury, £30)

John-Paul Stonard charts the history of art from cave paintings to computer images, criss-crossing the world as he does so.



DIARIES

The second volume of **Chips Channon's** diaries, edited by Simon Heffer (Hutchinson, £35) covers the period 1938-43. Channon was a rich, catty snob whose entertaining diaries are a portrait of a vanished epoch.



SPORT

Siya Kolisi captained the Springboks to win the 2019 Rugby World Cup. **Rise** (Harper Collins, £20.99) charts his ascent from a township to the pinnacle of his sport, an inspiring story of success against all the odds.

GARDENING

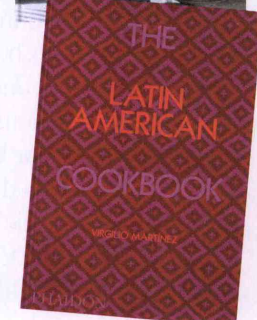
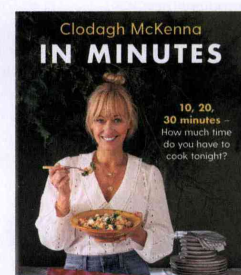
In Kiltumper (Bloomsbury, £18.99) by novelist Niall

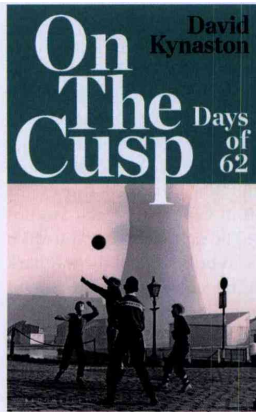


Williams and his author wife Christine Breen is a reflective, almost philosophical account.

COOKERY

Clodagh McKenna's **In Minutes** (Kyle Books, £20) offers 80 recipes appealing to cooks with limited time. These delicious dishes can be made in 10, 20, or 30 minutes so are ideal for a quick supper. **The Latin American Cookbook** by Virgilio Martinez (Phaidon, £35) contains 600 recipes and 450 photographs – a treat for travel-minded cooks.





HISTORY

On the Cusp: Days of '62 by David Kynaston (Bloomsbury, £18.99) recreates the ambience of the year in which the country changed for good. An ideal present for someone who turns sixty next year.

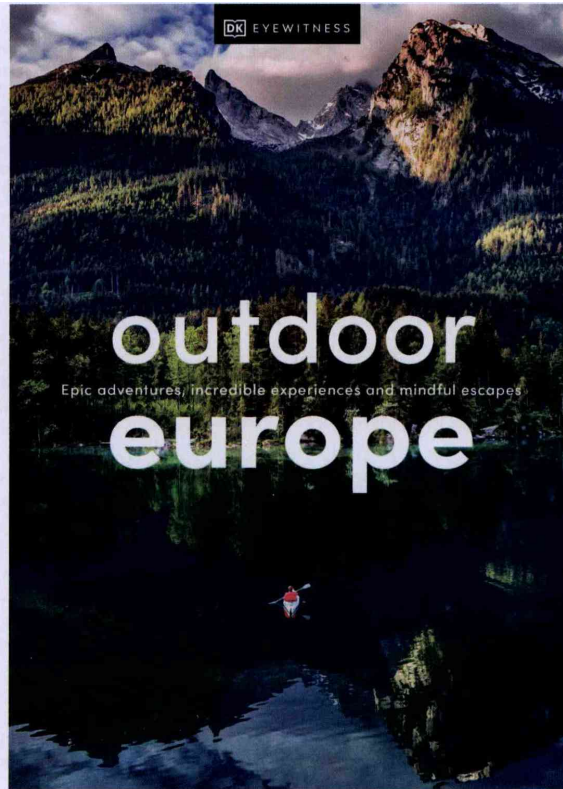
SEX

In a rut? Try Kate Sloan's **101 Kinky Things Even You Can Do** (Laurence King, £14.99) to spice up your sex life once the turkey's eaten and the holly's been taken down.



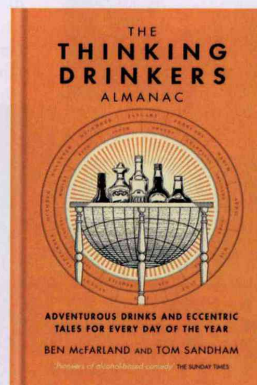
COUNTRY HOUSES

Clive Aslet is a leading architectural historian whose **The Story of the Country House** (Yale, £18.99) is an engaging, knowledgeable overview of this ever-developing subject, from eccentric owners to ha-has.



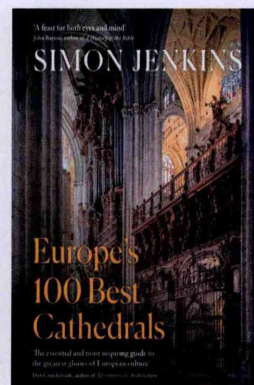
ADVENTURE

As the world opens up **Outdoor Europe** (DK, £20) offers a tantalising range of adventures: ice climbing, coastering, caving, star-gazing, mud bathing, and many others to get the imagination fizzing and the adrenaline pumping.



DRINK

Ben McFarland and Tom Sandham's **The Thinking Drinkers Almanac** (Octopus, £10.99) provides an excuse – as if one were needed – to try a different drink on every day of the year.

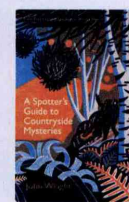


ARCHITECTURE

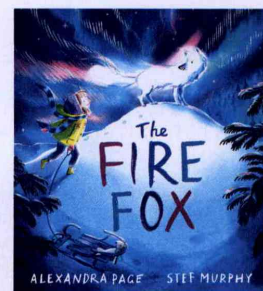
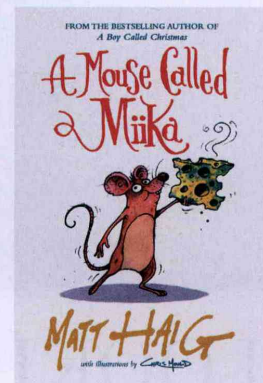
Simon Jenkins has worked his magic again with **Europe's 100 Best Cathedrals** (Penguin, £30). Sumptuously illustrated, this book whets the appetite for visiting these incomparable edifices.

COUNTRYSIDE

The countryside is full of perplexing sights for the uninitiated but John Wright's **A Spotter's Guide to Countryside Mysteries**



(Profile Books, £16.99) explains them, tussocks, clearance cairns, fairy rings and all.



CHILDREN

The ever-popular Matt Haig's **A Mouse Called Miika** (Canongate, £12.99) is an engaging story for older children about a mouse and his love of cheese. **The Fire Fox** by Alexandra Page and Stef Murphy and **Constance in Peril** by Ben Manley and Emma Chichester Clark



(both Two Hoots, both £12.99) are contrasting stories to captivate younger children. ■