

SELECTED TWENTY

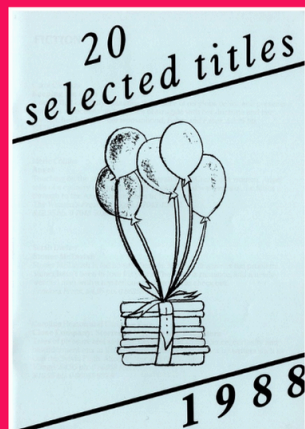
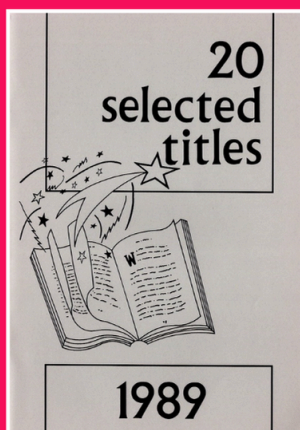
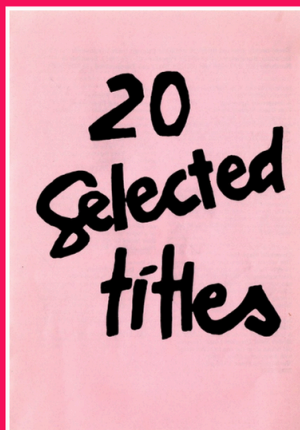
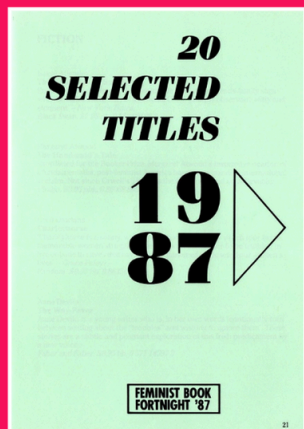
THE FEMINIST BOOKSHOP

UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX

2023-2024

Selected Twenty

Feminist Book Fortnight
publications over the years



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About

Welcome to The Feminist Bookshop's Selected Twenty catalogue. We are delighted to share with you the twenty titles that the bookshop team has chosen to represent the incredible range of feminist books published in 2023-2024.

The concept of the Selected Twenty was introduced as part of Feminist Book Fortnight (FBF) which first ran in 1984. Read on to find out more about the history of FBF and how it has been revived in recent years. We also share how we chose the titles in this catalogue - an enormous challenge given how many astounding books were published in the period - and invite you to select your own favourites.

Thank you so much for reading,
The Feminist Bookshop Team



Feminist Book Fortnight

Selected Twenty 2023-2024

Feminist Book Fortnight, which ran from 1984-1991, was an annual British book trade promotion which grew out of the flourishing women's movements of the time. It has recently been revived, first by Five Leaves Bookshop, and now Books on the Rise.

Its key aim, as set out in the inaugural Book Week catalogue, was to 'put feminism, feminist writers, books and publishers squarely and firmly in the mainstream marketplace, onto the educational curriculum and on library shelves'.

The 'Selected Twenty' were a distinctive feature of the Fortnight. Every year, twenty books were chosen by an independent panel of booksellers and librarians 'which best represent the range and strength of feminist books' published in a given year (Spare Rib 155: 43).

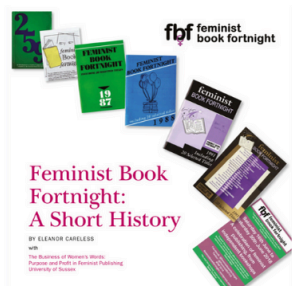
This FBF at The Feminist Bookshop we have chosen to make our own list of twenty titles we believe represent the quality and variety of titles published in the last year.

Selecting just twenty titles to highlight was an enormous challenge and our choices are necessarily subjective. We wanted to share our process to share how we came up with this selection and to encourage others to make their own lists.

We included books first published in the UK in April 2023-March 2024, that were on sale in The Feminist Bookshop and were by authors that identified as female or non-binary. We scored books on a range of factors including:

- originality
- entertainment/engagement of the reader
- representation of marginalised communities
- contribution to wider feminist discourse

We divided our shortlisted titles into categories and selected a range of titles across all categories. We gave a greater weighting to books published by independent publishers and a lesser weighting to books that had already been shortlisted for or won major literary prizes. This brought us to our final 20.



Feminist Book Fortnight:
A Short History
by Eleanor Careless

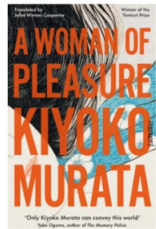
The Business of Women's
Words: Purpose and Profit in
Feminist Publishing



Scan the QR code to read in full.

The Feminist Bookshop's selected twenty titles for 2023-2024 are...

Fiction



A Woman of Pleasure Kiyoko Murata | Footnote Press

In 1903 Aoi Ichi is sold to the most exclusive brothel in Kumamoto, Japan. She soon begins to push back against the brothel's rigid hierarchy. As rumours of local worker strikes grow, Ichi wonders how the courtesans might redistribute the power and wealth of the brothels among themselves.



Every Smile You Fake Dorothy Koomson | Headline Publishing

Profiler and therapist Kez Lanyon is shocked when she finds a baby on the backseat of her car, with an unsigned note asking her to take care of him. If the internet rumours are true, the mother's life could be in real danger. Should Kez risk her whole family to save this young woman?



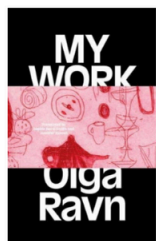
Edge of Here Kelechi Okafor | Orion Publishing

Enter a world very close to our own, where technology can allow you to explore a raft of new possibilities. Combining the ancient and the ultramodern, these stories examine contemporary Black womanhood, asking about the way we live now and offering a glimpse into our near future.



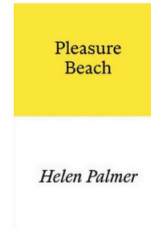
Evil Eye Etaf Rum | Harpercollins Publishers

Raised in a conservative Palestinian family in Brooklyn, Yara thought she would finally feel free when she married. Yet as her carefully constructed world begins to implode, she must face up to the difficulties of her childhood and the impact not just on her own future, but that of her daughters too.



My Work Olga Ravn | Lolli Editions

After giving birth, Anna is utterly lost. She and her family move to the unfamiliar, snowy city of Stockholm. Anxiety threatens to completely engulf her, as she obsessively devours online news and compulsively buys clothes she can't afford. To evade depression, Anna forces herself to read and write.



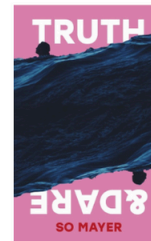
Pleasure Beach Helen Palmer | Prototype Publishing

Written in multiple voices and styles, *Pleasure Beach* follows the interconnecting journeys and thoughts of three young women in Blackpool over the course of 24 hours and over 18 chapters, which are structured and themed in the same way as Homer's *Odyssey* and James Joyce's *Ulysses*.



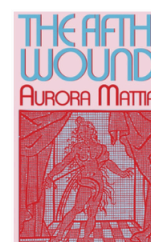
Split Tooth Tanya Tagaq | And Other Stories

An Inuk girl grows up in Nunavut, Canada, in the 1970s. She knows the tedium of the everyday world, and the raw, amoral power of the ice and sky, the seductive energy of the animal world. She knows the ravages of alcohol, and violence at the hands of those she should be able to trust.



Truth and Dare So Mayer | Cipher Press

A queer quantum tour through what was, what is, what could have been and may yet still come to pass, in a collection that braids high-wire believe-it-or-not memoir with cutting-edge science fiction (or is it?) from alternate timelines that vibrate very close to ours. Truth or dare? Both, always.



The Fifth Wound Aurora Mattia | Nightboat Books

A baroque work of intimate myth exploring one woman's interdimensional search for beauty and embodiment. In one dimension, a love story. In another, multiple traumatic encounters with transphobic violence, while on another, a story of ecstatic visionary experience swirls and sparkles.



The Night Alphabet Joelle Taylor | Quercus Publishing

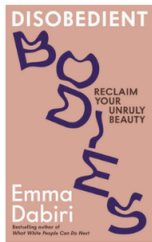
Jones' body is covered in tattoos but she wants to add one final inking to her gallery: a thin line of ink mixed with blood that connects her body art together, creating a unique map. She tells the tattooists the story behind them: each one represents a doorway to a life she fell into, a 'remembering'.

Non-Fiction



Abortion Beyond the Law Naomi Braine | Verso Books

Drawing on years of research with activists around the world, sociologist Naomi Braine describes the strategies, politics, and tactics of direct action feminists: bringing abortion pills, information, and support to make safe, accessible abortion care available against the odds.



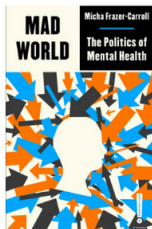
Disobedient Bodies Emma Dabiri | Wellcome Collection

For too long, beauty has been entangled in the forces of patriarchy and capitalism. We need to find a way to do beauty differently. This radical, deeply personal and empowering essay points to ways we can all embrace our unruly beauty and enjoy our magnificent, disobedient bodies.



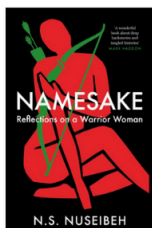
Electric Dreams Heather Parry | 404 Ink

Why are sex robots such a hot topic? Electric Dreams picks apart the forces that posit sex robots as either the solution to our problems or a real threat to human safety, and looks at what's being pushed aside for us to obsess about something that will never happen.



Mad World: The Politics of Mental Health Micha Frazer-Carroll | Pluto Press

Exploring the history of asylums and psychiatry; disability justice, queer liberation and mental health; art and creativity; prisons and abolition; and alternative models of care; Mad World is a radical and hopeful antidote to pathologisation, gatekeeping and the policing of imagination.



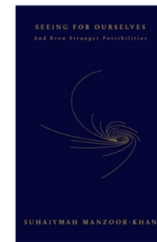
Namesake: Reflections on a Warrior Woman N.S. Nuseibeh | Canongate Books

Nuseibeh delves into the experience of being an Arab woman today and in the distant past. Her journey takes her from superheroes and the glorification of violence to the rise of Arab feminism, to what courage looks like in the context of interminable conflict.



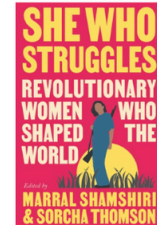
Ordinary Notes Christina Sharpe | Daunt Books

In a series of 248 notes that gather meaning as we read them, Sharpe skilfully weaves artefacts from the past, public relics alongside others that are poignantly personal, with present realities and possible futures, intricately constructing an immersive portrait of everyday Black existence.



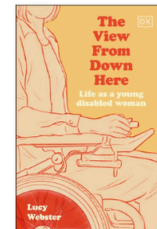
Seeing for Ourselves Suhaiymah Manzoor-Khan | Hajar Press

Manzoor-Khan records her observations from the stands at the dizzying circus of being seen and unseen. Submitting to the gaze of the Unseen and the All-Seeing, she invites us to close our eyes and discover what it would mean to look with our souls instead.



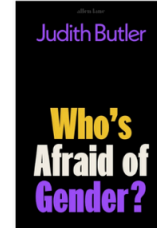
She Who Struggles Marral Shamshiri & Sorcha Thomson | Pluto Press

She Who Struggles sets the record straight, revealing how women have contributed to revolutionary movements across the world. Through exclusive interviews and original historical research, readers are introduced to largely unknown revolutionary women from across the globe.



The View from Down Here Lucy Webster | DK

Women's lives are shaped by sexism and expectations. Disabled people's lives are shaped by ableism and a lack of expectations. What happens when you're subjected to both? Lucy Webster looks at life at the intersection; the struggles, the joys and the unseen realities of being a disabled woman.



Who's Afraid of Gender? Judith Butler | Penguin

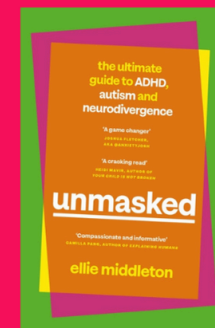
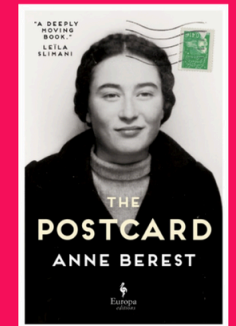
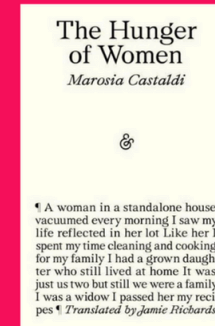
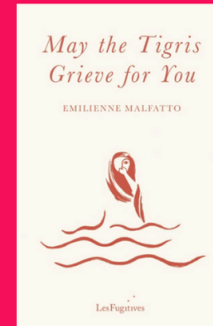
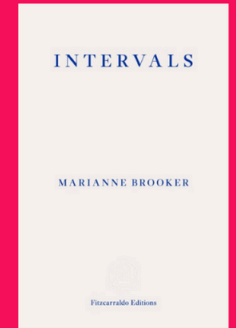
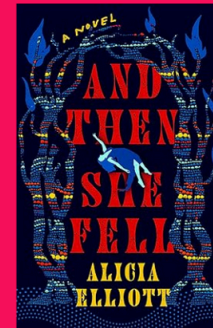
From one of the most influential thinkers of our time, an enlightening, essential account of how a fear of gender is fuelling reactionary politics around the world. Who's Afraid of Gender? is a galvanizing call to make a broad coalition with all those who struggle for equality and fight injustice.

Your Selected Twenty Titles

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Share your selections with us
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Selected Twenty Longlist Special Mentions





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