

The Handheld Newsletter

September 2019

Being a publisher produces a temporally dislocating work pattern. We are about to publish *The Caravaners*, but are also working hard on the pre-publication publicity for *The Exile Waiting* and *Women's Weird* (both October). Kate is proof-reading *Of Cats and Elfin* (January) and has *Business as Usual* next in line (March). She's also got *A Quaker Conscientious Objector* (May) waiting patiently to be read for the first time since it was submitted a month ago. She's just printed the bookmarks for the next two *Rose Macaulay novels* (August), and is in discussion with the editor about the *Weird* anthology for Halloween 2020, and another for 2021. Contracts for the 2021 titles are under discussion.

Meanwhile the backlist still demands attention. Reviews are still coming for *Kingdoms of Elfin*, and *What Not*, and we've just received one for our very first book, Ernest Bramah's *What Might Have Been*, which was published nearly two years ago. It's like juggling plates with constant additions. And we wouldn't have it any other way.

The Caravaners is here!

Our reprint of Elizabeth von Arnim's *The Caravaners* has arrived and is already selling nicely in the shops, so a pleased Bath bookseller told us last week. Out of the many reviews we've been told about, we're most looking forward to hearing *The Booktime Brunch Show on Chiltern Voice*, a community radio station in the heart of England. The show on Monday 16 September is between 10 and 12 noon, talking about *The Caravaners* and several other fine novels.



Nicola Griffith interview about So Lucky

After waiting for almost a year, *Disability Arts Online* have published its interview with our author Nicola Griffith, on her most recent novel *So Lucky*. We published the UK edition in November 2018, and it's doing nicely.

'*So Lucky* is nothing like my previous novels,' says Griffith. 'It's much shorter, faster, harder. It has a single through-line and is designed to be read in a single sitting. This is not settle-in-by-the-fire-for-a-cosy-read fiction. It's a spear-thrust of a novel.'

'I wanted to tell the story of how it feels to be nondisabled one year, and, by the next, not only be disabled but begin to identify as a cripple: how that happens, how it feels, what it takes to break out of that internalised, ableist cage, and what it all means.'

So Lucky is available in [paperback](#), [Kindle](#) and [epub](#).



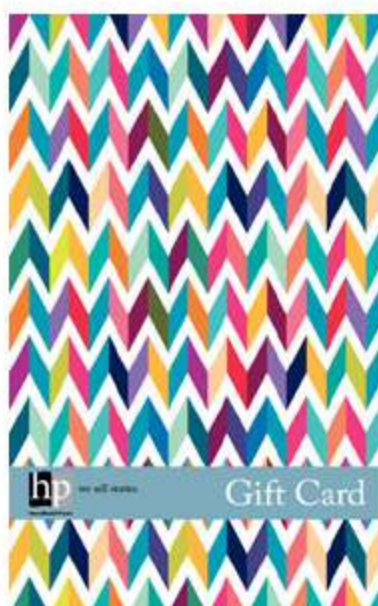
We're off to North America

It's taken six months, but now we've signed a sales and distribution agreement with Two Rivers, a subsidiary of Ingram, one of the western world's largest print and distribution companies. From January Two Rivers' sales reps will be fanning out across the USA and (parts of) Canada, selling selected Handheld Press titles to interested bookstores. At present we deal with (or 'fulfill') orders from North America ourselves, but we can't get out there and wave our books around. So if you're based in North America, ask your local bookstore to look out for our books.

Gift Cards with a Superpower!

However, if you'd rather buy your books from us directly, we now offer Handheld Press Gift Cards. These can be [bought from the Shop](#), in £20 or £30 denominations, and you can buy as many as you need to reach the total you want to spend on a present for yourself or a friend. (Hint: Christmas is coming.)

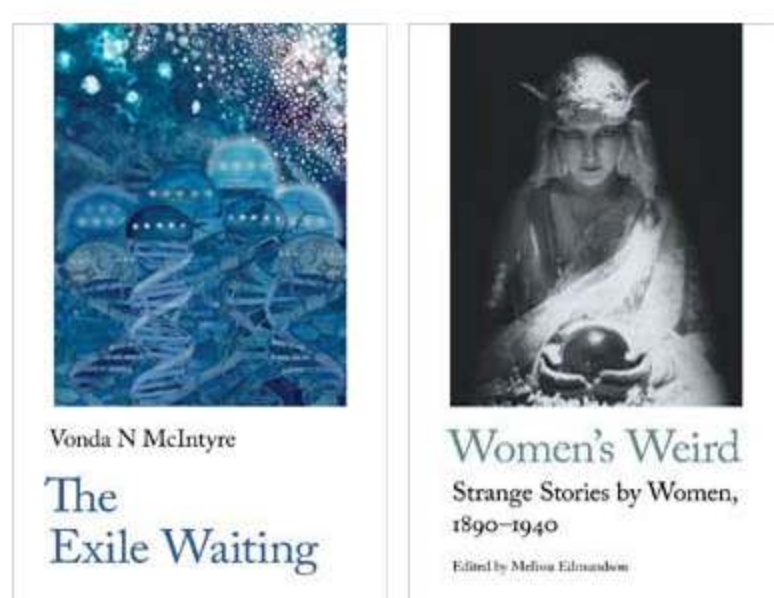
The REALLY good thing about our Gift Cards is that they give exclusive early access to all our forthcoming titles. If a Gift Card is used to pre-order a book that isn't yet published, then it will be posted to the recipient as soon as we have the copies from the printer, which can be as early as two months ahead of publication. No other gift card has this superpower. Use it wisely, and make your friends and family happy.



October is full of fantasy

In October we publish two books, which isn't our usual practice, but regular readers of the Newsletter will remember that we brought forward our reprint of Vonda N McIntyre's *The Exile Waiting* by almost a year, hoping that she would see it in print before she died. It will be launched at FantasyCon in Glasgow, with a reading by FantasyCon's Guest of Honour Una McCormack, who wrote the Afterword.

Shortly after that, *Women's Weird, Strange Stories by Women, 1890-1940* will be launched on the world. This remarkable anthology, the first to feature women writers of classic *Weird* fiction, is attracting a LOT of attention, and we've run out of office copies already. This will be launched at *The Second Shelf* in London on 30 October, with the book's editor, Melissa Edmundson, coming to London to do a reading and be interviewed about the authors she's chosen to resurrect from undesired obscurity.



Garden News

No more sparrowhawks, but the deer are coming down more from the wood to eat the berries in the hedge. They also leave whacking great holes in the grass as they scamper about, and they nibble the dogwood. The apple and pear trees are not producing much fruit, probably because the tree surgeon lopped them too late in the season, but the valley is full of bags of excess apples left outside houses with orchards, with pleading notes encouraging passers-by to take them away, so we're not going short.

Kate & David

Handheld Press

The Handheld newsletter is only sent to readers who have expressed an interest in receiving news from us. Our aim is to be informative and useful, and to keep you in the picture about what we're up to, offers and promotions.

Please rest assured that your details will never be passed on to any third parties nor used for any other purpose.

Should you wish to not receive any further email newsletters from us then we'll be disappointed, but we'll understand.