



Annette Shaw's roundup of new books

IN this compelling book, Dittisham author Jill Treseeder tackles racial prejudice, past and present, in an unusual way. Be warned, there are a lot of characters because the story spans three generations, but Jill has thoughtfully provided a cast list.

I asked her what prompted her to write the story and to my surprise she said: "Because my great-grandmother was black. The book was triggered by a real life family event that only surfaced when my own mother died and we found an old photograph in her personal papers."

Discovering her Caribbean ancestry was a revelation for Jill and it got her thinking about the possible consequences within a family when mystery rules and genes surface years later.

The book begins in 1913 with the arrival of Marjorie Dorothea, later



The Hatmaker's Secret

JILL TRESEDER

to be known as Thea. Appearance is everything to Thea and her sense of self depends upon keeping her secret with the added use of hair straightening and make-up. In 2005 her granddaughter Kate gives birth and has no idea why her little girl appears to be of mixed race. Her husband immediately suspects an affair and the family goes into freefall as the past is revealed in a complex but sensitive story.

Secrecy, manipulation, the bonds between parents and children, deception...it's all in there.

After graduating from Bristol with a degree in German, Jill followed careers in social work, management development and social research, obtaining a PhD from the School of Management at the University of Bath.

Published by SilverWood Books via web site and Amazon. Paperback £9.99



**THE BOOKSHOP
DETECTIVE**

Jan Ellis

What I really enjoyed was the banter between characters. Jan writes with an easy style that comes across as very natural.

Set in the fictional Devon seaside town of Combemouth, this is the latest in *The Bookshop* by *The Sea* series where Eleanor Mace runs The Reading Room. There's a bit of a mystery, everyday problems and a lot of community spirit. In her former life Jan was a publisher, editor and historian of early Spain.

Published by Waverley Books. Paperback £7.99



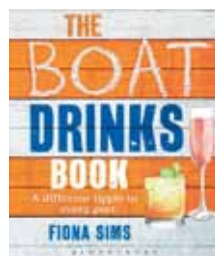
**SECRET BEACHES
SOUTHWEST
ENGLAND**

Rob Smith

I thought I was quite good at finding quirky places but Rob beats me hands down. Never heard of Swaney Cove, but as Rob writes: "This is so well-kept a secret that few references to it exist on maps or the internet. At low tide you're likely to be the only person there."

The book comes with all the high quality photographs and insider knowledge on pubs and pit stops that this publisher is famed for.

Published by One More Grain of Sand. Paperback £15



**THE BOAT DRINKS
BOOK**

Fiona Sims

The strap line for this one is: A different tippie in every port. I guess that makes it pretty irresistible.

Thousands of barrels of Plymouth Gin were once shipped to the Royal Navy so continuing the tradition of sensible drinking at sea, Fiona begins with advice on kitting out a well-stocked bar in a confined space, making it handy for caravan owners as well. The book covers drinks around the world and includes accompanying tasty recipes like artichoke, feta and ham tart.

Published by Bloomsbury. Paperback £16.99



**CAMPING BY THE
WATERSIDE**

Stephen Neale

The south west oozes good looks, camper vans, trendy bars, art festivals and some of the best seafood cuisine in the world, writes Stephen Neale

We also have some of the wildest moors with rivers such as the Barle and Exe as well as lakes, wrecks, reefs, angling and canoeing. With tips on everything from the gear to pack to safety checklists, there's something for every watersports enthusiast. A truly handy manual to help with where to park and/or pitch.

Published by Bloomsbury. Paperback £14.99