

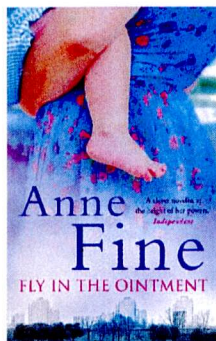
7 GREAT READS

Books editor **Kerry Fowler**



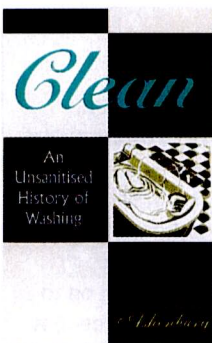
Little Monsters
by Charles Lambert
(Picador, £14.99)

'When I was thirteen, my father killed my mother' is an opening line that could go one of two ways. Thankfully, it pans out into a haunting novel, not a turgid misery. This is the story of a young girl ripped apart by grief, shunted off to an uncaring relative and, finally, finding the stability she craves in her Uncle Joey. But the chance to upset the equilibrium of human relationships is only ever a breath away.



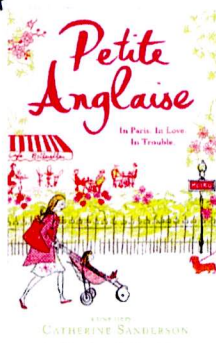
Fly In The Ointment
by Anne Fine
(Bantam, £16.99)

Never shy of examining the nastier bits of our natures, Fine chillingly tackles the business of bad mothers – and lawless grandmothers. When Lois' life unravels and she is left alone, the only person of value is her grandson. But his terribly incapable mother, Janie Gay, is a fly in the ointment and, to save the boy, Lois decides to create a secret, morally dodgy parallel life.



Clean: An Unsanitised History of Washing
by Katherine Ashenburg
(Profile Books, £12.99)

'You can't be a nice girl inside if you're a dirty slut outside,' said Mrs Pearce to Eliza Doolittle in Pygmalion ('slut' back then meant just grubby), before giving her a mustard bath. In this enjoyable – though not always palatable – historical journey through our bathing and hygiene habits, Ashenburg wittily reveals our emotional relationship with water and our bodies' natural, um, perfumes.



Petite Anglaise
by Catherine Sanderson
(Michael Joseph, £12.99)

Two years ago the revelations of Catherine Sanderson's personal life became the blog de jour, with up to 40,000 visits a day. Her blogging got her fired from her job, but she continued to entertain her audience with a compelling drip-feed of her failing marriage to 'Mr Frog', the challenging role of raising their child 'Tadpole', and grand pash for all things Parisian. This is the nicely enhanced version of her vie online.

BOOK OF THE MONTH

Something To Tell You by Hanif Kureishi

(Faber & Faber, £16.99)

Brilliantly wrapped around modern emotional turmoil, this is the story of a mid-life psychoanalyst seeing his past catch up with him. While he deals with the walking wounded of spiritually messed-up London, he confronts his relationships, entanglements and one shocking act of vengeance in particular.



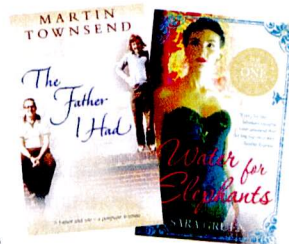
OUT NOW IN PAPERBACK

The Father I Had by Martin Townsend

(Corgi, £7.99) An unsentimental and moving story of Townsend's day-to-day experience of living with his father's mental illness.

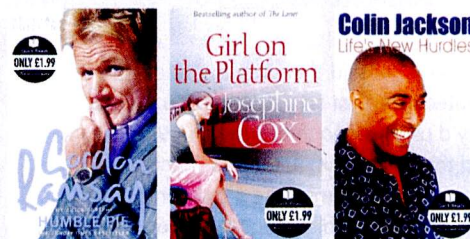
Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen

(Hodder, £7.99) An absolutely enchanting love story set in the beautifully detailed world of the circus during the American Depression.



WIN YOURSELF A QUICKIE

Ten minutes in the bath, five minutes on the train... Quick Reads are perfect for stolen me-time moments. Quick Reads are little books with big entertainment value from 10 favourite names (including Gordon Ramsay, Colin Jackson, Josephine Cox and Adele Parks). We're giving away 10 sets of 10 books – send a postcard with your name, address and why you need a quick read to Good Housekeeping Quick Read Competition, National Magazine House, 72 Broadwick Street, London W1F 9EP by 1 May*.



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