

Adrian Mole The Wilderness Years By Sue Townsend

A British teenager struggles to cope with the day-to-day problems of adolescence Jack Spratt is a policeman on the door of Number Ten. When the Prime Minister decides that the only way to get closer to the men and women on the street is to travel around the country incognito and find out what they really think, he enlists Jack's help. Leaving his high-powered, ambitious wife to hold the fort, he and Jack set out. But neither can foresee how their extraordinary odyssey will impact on world affairs. Or their own lives.

Can an adult still have a secret diary? Everyone's favorite angst adolescent Brit is now a tormented twentysomething and still "a brilliant comic creation" (The Times). Question: What have I done with my life? Answer: Nothing. At 23¾ years old, Adrian Mole is now an adult and almost prepared. On the upside: He's fallen for a perfectly lovely Nigerian waitress; he's seeing a therapist so as to talk about himself without interruption; and he's added vowels to his experimental novel-in-progress (so much more accessible to the masses!). The downside? Pandora is probably history; a pea-brained rival has been published before him to great acclaim; and worse, Adrian realizes he may not be uncommon after all. In fact, he may fall somewhere within the range of normalcy. How can an intellectual be expected to live with that? "Thank God for Sue Townsend and Adrian Mole" (The Observer). Her "achingly funny anti-hero" (Daily Mail) returns to take the world by storm—or least weather it—in the beloved bestselling series from "one of Britain's most celebrated comic writers" (The Guardian). Adrian's continuing chronicle of angst has sold more than twenty million copies worldwide, and been adapted for television and staged as a musical—truly "a phenomenon" (The Washington Post).

Adrian Mole faces the same agonies that life sets before most adolescents: troubles with girls, school, parents, and an uncaring world. The difference, though, between young Master Mole and his peers is that this British lad keeps a diary—an earnest chronicle of longing and disaster that has charmed more than five million readers since its two-volume initial publication. From teenaged Adrian's anguished adoration of a lovely, mercurial schoolmate to his view of his parents' constantly creaking relationship to his heartfelt but hilarious attempts at cathartic verse, here is an outrageous triumph of deadpan—and deadly accurate—satire. ABBA, Princess Di's wedding, street punks, Monty Python, the Falklands campaign . . . all the cultural pageantry of a keenly observed era marches past the unique perspective of Sue Townsend's brilliant comic creation: A . Mole, the unforgettable lad whose self-absorption only gets funnier as his life becomes more desperate.

Discover the brilliant, hilarious and unlikely story of a woman's life rebuilt, from the bestselling author of the Adrian Mole series and *The Woman who Went to Bed for a Year* 'There are two things that you should know about me immediately: the first is that I am beautiful, the second is that yesterday I killed a

man. Both things were accidents . . .' When Midlands housewife Coventry Dakin kills her next-door neighbour, in a wild attempt to stop him from strangling his wife, she goes on the run. Finding herself alone and friendless in London, she tries to lose herself in the city's maze of streets. There, she meets a bewildering cast of eccentric characters. From Professor Willoughby D'Eresby and his perpetually naked wife Letitia, to Dodo, a care-in-the-community inhabitant of Cardboard City, they all contrive to change Coventry in ways she could never have foreseen . . . Praise for Sue Townsend: 'Laugh-out-loud . . . a teeming world of characters whose foibles and misunderstandings provide glorious amusement. Something deeper and darker than comedy' Sunday Times 'She fills the pages with turmoil, anger, passion, love and big helpings of wit. It's full of colour and glows with life' Independent 'Touching and hilarious. Bursting with witty social commentary as well as humour' Women's Weekly

The author turns her mordant powers of observation to the serious question of abortion in this poignant & unsparing work of fiction.

Adrian Mole: The Wilderness Years Open Road Media

30TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION 'With the Mole books, Townsend has an unrivalled claim to be this country's foremost practising comic novelist' Mail on Sunday Wednesday August 13th Here I am again - in my old bedroom. Older, wiser, but with less hair, unfortunately. The atmosphere in this house is very bad. The dog looks permanently exhausted. Every time the phone rings my mother snatches it up as though a kidnapper were on the line. Adrian Mole is thirty, single and a father. His cooking at a top London restaurant has been equally mocked ('the sausage on my plate could have been a turd' - AA Gill) and celebrated (will he be the nation's first celebrity offal chef?). And the love of his life, Pandora Braithwaite, is the newly elected MP for Ashby-de-la-Zouch - one of 'Blair's Babes'. He is frustrated, disappointed and undersexed. But a letter from Adrian's past is about to change everything . . . 'Adrian Mole really is a brilliant comic creation. Every sentence is witty and well thought out, and the whole has reverberations beyond itself' The Times 'One of the greatest comic creations. I can't remember a more relentlessly funny book' Daily Mirror

'It's really, really, really funny' David Walliams Mole Press - a brand new imprint of Penguin Books - is proud to announce the first publication of The Collected Poems of Adrian Mole to mark the author's 50TH birthday. -----

'Edgy politics, tortured eroticism, misunderstood intellect, changing Britain - a whiff of the sublime. Mole's contribution is significant' Daily Telegraph Featuring poems scattered over nearly thirty years of writing and salvaged from the diaries 'authored' by one Sue Townsend, this slim volume features more than thirty pieces of Adrian's unique art. From his timeless first documented poem - The Tap - via classic odes to his muse, first and only true love Pandora (I adore ya), we follow Adrian's life in verse form. We not only witness his burgeoning political anger in works like Mrs Thatcher (Do you weep, Mrs Thatcher, do you weep?) but also see in later poems his merciless examination of the hollow shell of

masculinity as well as documenting his declining libido in tragic pieces like *To My Organ*. For the first time in a single volume, these are the collected poems of misunderstood intellectual and tortured poet Adrian Mole. 'I ruthlessly exploited Adrian. But he can't afford to sue me' Sue Townsend 'Wonderfully funny and sharp as knives' *Sunday Times* 'One of the great comic creations' *Daily Mirror* 'The funniest person in the world' Caitlin Moran

Every book tells a story And the 70 titles in the *Pocket Penguins* series are emblematic of the renowned breadth of quality that formed part of the original Penguin vision in 1935, and that continues to define our publishing today. Together, they tell one version of the unique story of Penguin. transvestite PM or the Queen reduced to living on a council estate, Sue Townsend has been brilliantly satirizing British life for more than twenty years. Penguin publish all Townsend's hilarious Adrian Mole books and *The Queen in Hell Close* is an extract from *The Queen and I*, a brilliantly acerbic take on a Royal Family in dire straits.

A three-play volume in which Sue Townsend extracts comedy from the most painful social insights. The first concerns a neurotic do-gooder, the second is set in an adult literacy class and "Womberang" shows a free spirited girl bringing anarchy to the grim waiting room of a gynaecology clinic.

British adolescent angst has never been so "laugh-out-loud funny" (*The New York Times*)—the journey begins with these first two books in the heartbreakingly hilarious series. Commiserate with "one of literature's most endearing figures" (*The Observer*)—a sharp-witted, pining, and achingly honest underdog of great expectations and dwindling patience who knows all (or believes he does) and tells all. First published in 1982, Adrian Mole's chronicle of angst has sold more than 20 million copies worldwide, spawned seven sequels, been adapted for television, and staged as a musical—truly "a phenomenon" (*The Washington Post*). *The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole, Aged 13 and ¾*: Adrian Mole must amass his grievances—his acne vulgaris is grotesque; his crush, Pandora, has received seventeen Valentine's Day cards (seventeen!); his PE teacher is a sadist; he fears his parents' marriage is over since they no longer smoke together; his dog has gone AWOL; no one appreciates his poetry; and *Animal Farm* has set him off pork for good. If everyone were as appalled as Adrian Mole, it would be a better world. For now, for us, it's just "screamingly funny" (*The Sunday Times*). *The Growing Pains of Adrian Mole*: Growing up among inferiors in Great Britain isn't easy for a sensitive "poet of the Midlands" like Adrian, considering everything in the world is conspiring to scar him for life—his hormones are in a maelstrom; his mother is pregnant (at her age!); his girlfriend is in shut down; and he's become allergic to non-precious metals. As his "crisply hilarious saga" (*Booklist*) continues, the changes Adrian undergoes will surely be profound. "Townsend's wit is razor sharp" (*Daily Mirror*) as she shows us the world through the haunted eyes of her luckless teenage diarist and self-proclaimed "undiscovered intellectual," proving again and again why she's been called "a national

treasure” (The New York Times Book Review).

The final chapter in the beloved chronicles of an angsty Brit begun in *The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Aged 13¾* is “a tour de force by a comic genius” (Daily Mail). Am I turning into one of those middle-aged men who think the country has gone to the dogs and that there has been no decent music since Abba? Hard to believe! Adrian Mole is pushing forty, a beleaguered bookseller looking back through the wistful eyes of an unrecognized intellectual and, admittedly, pretty much of an Everyman. But he’s also looking forward, despite a few things: His five-year-old daughter is showing alarming Stalinist traits; his son is fighting the Taliban and he’s worried sick; his unfaithful wife is keeping a diary of her own and it’s all rather heartbreaking; frequent urination has made him fear trouble “down there;” and his mother is penning a misery memoir that is one gross slog of a lie (born an aristocrat in a Norfolk potato field, indeed!). Then one day he receives a phone call out of the blue from the great and only love his life: Pandora Braithwaite. “Do you think of me?” she asks. Only ever since he was 13¾ . . . Adrian Mole’s epic and hilarious chronicle of angst over a quarter century has sold more than twenty million copies worldwide, and been adapted for television and staged as a musical—truly “a phenomenon” (The Washington Post). This final volume is “like rediscovering an old school friend on Facebook” (Time Out), and “if [it] isn’t the best book published this year, I’ll eat my bookshelf” (Daily Mail).

Presents the latest diaries of young Master Mole, whose private musings represent the reflections of a misunderstood and muddled soul “Townsend’s wit is razor sharp” as her self-proclaimed intellectual adolescent hero continues his hilarious angst-filled secret diary (TheMirror). I can’t wait until I am fully mature and can make urban conversation with intellectuals. Growing up among inferiors in Great Britain isn’t easy for a sensitive fifteen-year-old “poet of the Midlands” like Adrian Mole, considering everything in the world is conspiring to scar him for life: His hormones are in a maelstrom; his mother is pregnant (at her age!); his girlfriend, Pandora, is in shutdown; radio stardom isn’t panning out; he’s become allergic to non-precious metals; and passing his exams is as dire a crisis as the Falkland Islands. From weathering a profound but shaky romance with the love of his life to negotiating his parents’ reconciliation to writing his poetry on restroom walls (why on earth did he sign his name?), “Adrian Mole is as engaging as ever” (Time Out). The sequel to the beloved *The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Aged 13¾* continues Adrian’s chronicle of angst, which has sold more than twenty million copies worldwide, and been adapted for television and staged as a musical. Adrian Mole is truly “a phenomenon” (The Washington Post).

This volume contains five plays by the author of the highly successful Adrian Mole books, and includes her adaptation of the first book in the series.

THE BRILLIANTLY FUNNY SEQUEL TO THE QUEEN AND I FROM BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF THE ADRIAN MOLE SERIES What if being Royal

was a crime? The UK has come over all republican. The Royal Family exiled to an Exclusion Zone with the other villains and spongers. And to cap it all, the Queen has threatened to abdicate. Yet Prince Charles is more interested in root vegetables than reigning ... unless his wife Camilla can be Queen in a newly restored monarchy. But when a scoundrel who claims to be the couple's secret love-child offers to take the crown off their hands, the stage is set for a right Royal show down. And the question for Camilla (and rest of the country) will be: Queen of the vegetable patch or Queen of England? _____ 'Brilliantly satirical' Evening Standard 'One of our finest living comic writers' The Times 'Brilliantly funny' Closer 'Another fantastic read from Townsend' OK!

The further misadventures of the world's oldest adolescent.

The Heinemann Plays series offers contemporary drama and classic plays in durable classroom editions. Many have large casts and an equal mix of boy and girl parts. This play is an adaptation of the humorous diary of a young intellectual, suffering the traumas of love, parental divorce and spots.

All the mole diaries plus the further diaries for 1989-1990.

30TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION 'A tour de force by a comic genius and if it isn't the best book published this year, I'll eat my bookshelf' Daily Mail, Books of the Year' Sunday 1st July NO SMOKING DAY A momentous day! Smoking in a public place or place of work is forbidden in England. Though if you a lunatic, a prisoner, an MP or a member of the Royal Family you are exempt. Adrian Mole is thirty-nine and a quarter. He lives in the country in a semi-detached converted pigsty with his wife Daisy and their daughter. His parents George and Pauline live in the adjoining pigsty. But all is not well. The secondhand bookshop in which Adrian works is threatened with closure. The spark has fizzled out of his marriage. His mother is threatening to write her autobiography (A Girl Called Shit). And Adrian's nightly trips to the lavatory have become alarmingly frequent . . . 'Effortlessly hilarious. Brilliant satire and tragedy' The Times 'Hilarious. Comic gold' Sunday Times

"Townsend has a rare gift ... wickedly funny."—Kirkus Reviews (starred) "It's not pretty, it's not subtle, but it's wickedly funny and skewers London's prime-time players."—Columbus Dispatch Praise for Sue Townsend: "It's a good thing British subjects are no longer beheaded for treason, or Sue Townsend's head would roll . . . outrageously cutting."—Newsday "[Townsend] is a national treasure."—The New York Times Book Review Edward Clare, PM of England, doesn't know the price of a liter of milk. Worse, he's admitted it on national television. The public that ushered him to a landslide election has turned against him. Edward decides the only way to get closer to the men and women on the street is to travel the country dressed in drag. Leaving his high-powered, ambitious wife to attend to things in his absence, he sets out. In this comic romp Sue Townsend sends up, roasts, hoists and generally petards the once and future prime ministers as only she can. Sue Townsend is celebrated as the author of the bestselling Adrian Mole series, read by millions, as well as the #1 British bestseller, *The Queen and I*. She lives in Leicester, England.

Before he was "Big Texas," he was "Zac the Snack Pack." Bianca Brannen knows time-

mostly-heals all wounds. Including those your once loved ones might have unintentionally given you. (Those just take longer.) She thinks she's ready when a call has her walking back into her old friend's life. Or at least as prepared as possible to see the starting quarterback in the National Football Organization. Before the lights, the fans, and the millions, he'd been a skinny kid with a heart of gold. Waltzing out of Zac Travis's life should be easy. Just as easy as he walked out of hers.

As his laugh-out-loud secret diary extends into his later teens and young adulthood, everyone's favorite angsty Brit remains "a brilliant comic creation" (The Times, London). Continue to commiserate with "one of literature's most endearing figures"—a sharp-witted, pining, and achingly honest underdog of great expectations and dwindling patience who knows all (or believes he does) and tells all (The Observer). Having endured the agony of adolescence (just), Adrian now careens into his later teens, torturous twenties, and utterly disappointing thirties in these three hilarious sequels by "one of Britain's most celebrated comic writers" (The Guardian). From the not-so-humble origins of *The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Aged 13 and ¾*, Adrian's chronicle of angst has sold more than twenty million copies worldwide, spawned seven sequels, been adapted for television, and staged as a musical—truly "a phenomenon" (The Washington Post). *The True Confessions of Adrian Albert Mole: What's happening to Adrian Mole?* On the one hand, he's entering the cusp of adulthood and burgeoning success as a published poet. On the other, he still lives at home, refuses to part with his threadbare stuffed rabbit, and has lost his job at the library for a shocking act of impudence: He shelved Jane Austen under Light Romance. Even worse, someone named Sue Townsend stole his diaries and published them under her own name. Of course they were bestsellers. *Adrian Mole: The Wilderness Years: At 23¾* years old, Adrian is now technically an adult and almost prepared. On the upside: He's fallen for a perfectly lovely Nigerian waitress; he's seeing a therapist so as to talk about himself without interruption; and he's added vowels to his experimental novel-in-progress (so much more accessible to the masses!). The downside? Pandora is probably history; a pea-brained rival has been published before him to great acclaim; and worse—Adrian has come to the devastating realization that he may not be uncommon after all. *Adrian Mole: The Cappuccino Years: At 34¾*, impotent intellectual Adrian Mole is soon to be divorced; he hasn't a clue what to do with his semi-stardom as a celebrity chef; his parents have become swingers (with whom is too shocking to go into now); his epic novel is still unpublished; his ex-flame Pandora is running for political office; and his younger sister has rebelled in the most distressingly common ways. There is one upside: Adrian's son has inherited his mother's unblemished skin. "Townsend's wit is razor sharp" (Daily Mirror) as she shows us the world through the older and (possibly?) wiser eyes of her "achingly funny anti-hero" (Daily Mail), proving again and again why she's been called "a national treasure" (The New York Times Book Review).

30TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION 'One of literature's most endearing figures. Mole is an excellent guide for all of us' Observer Monday June 13th I had a good, proper look at myself in the mirror tonight. I've always wanted to look clever, but at the age of twenty years and three months I have to admit that I look like a person who has never even heard of Jung or Updike. Adrian Mole is an adult. At least that's what it says on his passport. But living at home, clinging to his threadbare cuddly rabbit 'Pinky', working as a paper pusher for the DoE and pining for the love of his life, Pandora, has proved to

him that adulthood isn't quite what he expected. Still, without the slings and arrows of modern life what else would an intellectual poet have to write about . . . Included here are two other less well-known diarists: Sue Townsend and Margaret Hilda Roberts, a rather ambitious grocer's daughter from Grantham. 'Essential reading for Mole followers' Times Educational Supplement 'Townsend has held a mirror up to the nation and made us happy to laugh at what we see in it' Sunday Telegraph

Play version of this novel that was a hit with adults and teenagers alike. In his secret diary, British teenager Adrian Mole excruciatingly details every morsel of his turbulent adolescence. Mixed in with daily reports about the zit sprouting on his chin are heartrending passages about his parents' chaotic marriage. Adrian sees all, and he has something to say about everything. Delightfully self-centered, Adrian is the sort of teenager who could rule a much better world--if only his crazy relatives and classmates would get out of his way. Sue Townsend's play is based on her internationally best-selling book, was created for the Phoenix Arts Leicester, where it received its first production in Septmeber 1984. This volume contains the complete text of the play with introductory notes on the staging by the author; the complete words of the lyrics and music for the melody line of each of the tunes.

Adrian Mole has entered middle age and is now 'the same age as Jesus when he died' (33). Father to the grammatically challenged Glenn, and William - who takes a 'Big Boy Arouser' condom to nursery school as his innocent contribution to a hot air balloon project - Adrian is a single parent who as an on/off relationship with his housing officer, Pamela Pigg. But will she help him to move from the notorious Gaitskell estate before William joins the Mad Frankie Fraser club? In the meantime, Adrian continues to be scandalized by his irresponsible mother and father, who are conducting a matrimonial square-dance with the Braithwaites - parents of the beautiful but unobtainable Pandora, who is ruthlessly pursuing her ambition to be New Labour's first woman PM - and to confide in his diary. His current worries include- indestructible head-lice; his raging jealousy when his accomplished half-brother Brett arrives on his doorstep; moral decline in The Archers; his desperate attachment to two therapists; his mild addiction to Starburst (formerly Opal Fruits); a small earthquake in Leicester; and, perhaps most significantly, the dawn of a new millennium.

The hilarious, bestselling follow-ups to Sue Townsend's The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Aged 13 and 3/4 : The Growing Pains of Adrian Mole, True Confessions of Adrian Albert Mole and Adrian Mole: The Wilderness together in one volume. Sunday July 18th. My father announced at breakfast that he is going to have a vasectomy. I pushed my sausages away untouched. Charting nearly ten years in the life of Adrian Mole, from his increasingly troubled adolescence and schooling to his first job as newt counter for the DoE, from his parents' marital troubles to his own difficult relationship with Pandora, from the failure of his early poems to the even grander failure of his epic novels, these three novels in one volume provide a hilarious portrait of one young man's coming of age. 'He will be remembered some day as one of England's great diarists. No matter what your troubles may be Adrian Mole is sure to make you feel better' Evening Standard 'The funniest, most bitter-sweet book you're likely to read this year' Daily Mirror 'Funny, moving and a poke in the eye for adult morality' Sunday Express Sue Townsend is Britain's favourite comic author. Since the publication of The Secret Diaries of Adrian Mole Aged 13 and 3/4 in 1982, she has made us weep with laughter

and pricked the nation's conscience. Seven further volumes of diaries have followed: The Growing Pains of Adrian Mole, The True Confessions of Adrian Albert Mole, Adrian Mole: The Wilderness Years, Adrian Mole: The Cappuccino Years, The Lost Diaries of Adrian Mole, Adrian Mole and the Weapons of Mass Destruction and Adrian Mole: The Prostrate Years. All have been acclaimed bestsellers, some have been adapted for radio and TV, starring Lulu, Julie Walters and Stephen Mangan, among others. She has also written six other popular novels (The Queen and I, Queen Camilla, Number Ten, Rebuilding Coventry, Ghost Children and The Woman Who Went to Bed for A Year) and penned many well-received plays. She lives in Leicester, where she was born and grew up.

'The funniest person in the world' Caitlin Moran 'My comfort read. The best diaries ever written - with apologies to Samuel Pepys, Bridget Jones and me' ADAM KAY FEATURED IN 'THE 100 BOOKS THAT SHAPED OUR WORLD' BBC ARTS The FIRST TWO BOOKS in the hilarious and iconic Adrian Mole series from comic legend Sue Townsend. _____ Friday January 2nd I felt rotten today. It's my mother's fault for singing 'My Way' at two o'clock in the morning at the top of the stairs. Just my luck to have a mother like her. There is a chance my parents could be alcoholics. Next year I could be in a children's home. Meet Adrian Mole, a hapless teenager providing an unabashed, pimples-and-all glimpse into adolescent life. Telling us candidly about his parents' marital troubles, The Dog, his life as a tortured poet and 'misunderstood intellectual', his love for the divine Pandora and his horror at learning of his mother's pregnancy, Adrian's painfully honest diary is a hilarious and heartfelt chronicle of misspent adolescence. _____ 'I've never experienced a greater sense of recognition than when reading The Secret Diary' David Nicholls 'Every sentence is witty and well thought out, and the whole has reverberations beyond itself' The Times 'Townsend has held a mirror up to the nation and made us happy to laugh at what we see in it' Sunday Telegraph 'One of the great comic creations' Daily Mirror THE SECRET DIARY OF ADRIAN MOLE IS NOW A MAJOR MUSICAL Features the complete texts of The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Aged 13 3?4 and The Growing Pains of Adrian Mole.

Further writings from the pen of Adrian Mole as he continues to confide his deepest thoughts and most moving experiences to the page. We follow the young Adrian through life between ages 16 to 21 as he gains employment as a librarian and continues to pine for Pandora, who has gone to Oxford.

The day her twins leave home, Eva climbs into bed and stays there. For seventeen years she's wanted to yell at the world, 'Stop! I want to get off'. Finally, this is her chance. Her husband Brian, an astronomer having an unsatisfactory affair, is upset. Who will cook his dinner? Eva, he complains, is attention seeking. But word of Eva's defiance spreads. Legions of fans, believing she is protesting, gather in the street. While Alexander the white van man brings tea, toast and sympathy. And from this odd but comforting place Eva begins to see both herself and the world very, very differently. . .

Adrian Mole is thirty-four and three quarters, almost officially middle-aged, when Mr Blair tells Parliament that weapons of mass destruction can be deployed in forty-five minutes and can reach Cyprus. Adrian is worried that he might not get a refund on his holiday. But that's not all that is bothering him. There's his odd girlfriend Marigold who has become distressingly New Age. And his son Glenn who is in Deepcut Barracks. Would Mr Blair have been quite so keen if it had been his son manning a roadblock?

Adrian Mole is an adult. At least that's what it says on his passport. But living at home, clinging to his threadbare cuddly rabbit 'Pinky', working as a paper pusher for the DoE and pining for the love of his life, Pandora, has proved to him that adulthood isn't quite what he expected. Still, without the dilemmas of modern life what would an intellectual poet have to write about...

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