

## Sue Townsend The Queen And I

"When you're done binge-watching *The Crown*, pick up this multifaceted wartime thriller." —Kirkus Reviews As London endures nightly German bombings, Britain's secret service whisks the princesses Elizabeth and Margaret from England, seeking safety for the young royals on an old estate in Ireland. Ahead of the German Blitz during World War II, English parents from every social class sent their children to the countryside for safety, displacing more than three million young offspring. In *The Secret Guests*, the British royal family takes this evacuation a step further, secretly moving the princesses to the estate of the Duke of Edenmore in "neutral" Ireland. A female English secret agent, Miss Celia Nashe, and a young Irish detective, Garda Strafford, are assigned to watch over "Ellen" and "Mary" at Clonmillis Hall. But the Irish stable hand, the housemaid, the formidable housekeeper, the Duke himself, and other Irish townspeople, some of whom lost family to English gunshots during the War of Independence, go freely about their business in and around the great house. Soon suspicions about the guests' true identities percolate, a dangerous boredom sets in for the princesses, and, within and without Clonmillis acreage, passions as well as stakes rise. Benjamin Black, who has good information that the princesses were indeed in Ireland for a time during the Blitz, draws readers into a novel as fascinating as the nascent career of Miss Nashe, as tender as the homesickness of the sisters, as intriguing as Irish-English relations during WWII, and as suspenseful and ultimately action-packed as war itself.

Adrian Mole faces the same agonies that life sets before most adolescents: trouble s 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.

The one-and-only original teenage diary! At thirteen years old, Adrian Mole has more than his fair share of problems - spots, ill-health, parents threatening to divorce, rejection of his poetry and much more - all recorded with brilliant humour in his diary.

The continuing saga of Adrian Mole, a middle-aged bookseller and single parent, who worries about many things, including his engagement to Marigold Flowers. Will he find it in himself to break off his engagement to the tenacious Marigold and start a meaningful relationship with her sister?

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.

Theatre program.

Jack Sprat is a policeman on the door of Number Ten. When the Prime Minister decides that the only way to get closer to the people on the street is to travel around the country incognito, he enlists Jack's help. For the first time in years, the PM experiences everything his country has to offer.

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.

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 3/4*: 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*).

British adolescent angst has never been so "laugh-out-loud funny" as in this first encounter with a sharp-witted, pining, and achingly honest underdog (*The New York Times*). Perhaps when I am famous and my diary is discovered, people will understand the torment of being a 13¾-year-old undiscovered intellectual. Adrian Mole is approaching fourteen, and like all radical intellectuals he must amass his grievances: His acne vulgaris is grotesque; his crush, Pandora, received seventeen Valentine's Day cards; 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. Introducing "one of literature's most endearing figures": a luckless adolescent of great

expectations and dwindling patience who knows all—or believes he does—and tells all (The Observer). First published in 1982, Adrian's chronicle of angst has sold more than twenty million copies worldwide, spawned seven sequels, and been adapted for television and staged as a musical. Here's where it all began.

Facing up to the social changes in nineteenth century Italy, an elderly aristocrat arranges a marriage between his daughter and a wealthy merchant

"Townsend's wit is razor sharp" as her self-proclaimed intellectual adolescent hero continues his hilarious angst-filled secret diary (The Mirror). 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).

The day her gifted twins leave home for university, 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. Perhaps she will be able to think. Her husband Dr Brian Beaver, an astronomer who divides his time between gazing at the expanding universe, an unsatisfactory eight-year-old affair with his colleague Titania and mooching in his shed, is not happy. Who will cook dinner? Eva, he complains, is either having a breakdown or taking attention-seeking to new heights. But word of Eva's refusal to get out of bed quickly spreads. Alexander the dreadlocked white-van man arrives to help Eva dispose of all her clothes and possessions and bring her tea and toast. Legions of fans are writing to her or gathering in the street to catch a glimpse of this 'angel'. Her mother Ruby is unsympathetic: 'She'd soon get out of bed if her arse was on fire.' And, though the world keeps intruding, it is from the confines of her bed that Eva at last begins to understand freedom. The Woman Who Went to Bed for a Year is a funny and touching novel about what happens when someone stops being the person everyone wants them to be. Sue Townsend, Britain's funniest writer for over three decades, has written a brilliant novel that eviscerates modern family life. Sue Townsend is Britain's favourite comic author. Her hugely successful novels include eight Adrian Mole books, The Public Confessions of a Middle-Aged Woman (Aged 55¾), Number Ten, Ghost Children, The Queen and I and Queen Camilla, all of which are highly acclaimed bestsellers. She has also written numerous 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.

The author turns her mordant powers of observation to the serious question of abortion in this poignant & unsparing work of fiction. The Queen and her family are deposed by a new Republican Government and allocated housing on a Leicester Council Estate. The Queen's husband takes his redundancy badly, her beautiful daughter-in-law copes bravely with the problems of bringing up two young lads alone in difficult circumstances while her sister reaches an understanding with criminal elements on the estate. The Royal Family come to terms with their new situation in a series of hilarious scenes as Sue Townsend's satire, based on her best-selling novel, explores the broken promises of the Welfare State.

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

'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

Presents the latest diaries of young Master Mole, whose private musings represent the reflections of a misunderstood and muddled soul. When Daniel's mother dies, he is brought under the protection of the AMO: the Alliance of Magicians and Outlaws. It is an introduction to a world of revenge, revolution and mind-bending chemicals, where anarchists, alchemists and high-stake gamblers co-exist. It is a place in which magic and murder are the norm. So begins an extraordinary quest for knowledge and understanding in this unforgettable outlaw classic.

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?

An absolute delight of a debut novel by William Kuhn—author of *Reading Jackie: Her Autobiography in Books*—Mrs Queen Takes the Train wittily imagines the kerfuffle that transpires when a bored Queen Elizabeth strolls out of the palace in search of a little fun, leaving behind a desperate team of courtiers who must find the missing Windsor before a national scandal erupts. Reminiscent of Alan Bennett's *The Uncommon Reader*, this lively, wonderfully inventive romp takes readers into the mind of the grand matriarch of Britain's Royal Family, bringing us an endearing runaway Queen Elizabeth on the town—and leading us behind the Buckingham Palace walls and into the upstairs/downstairs spaces of England's monarchy.

The “wickedly satirical, mad, ferociously farcical [and] subversive” angsty Brit of secret diary fame careens into his thirties (Daily Mail). I expect that by tomorrow I will have embellished the story and given myself a heroic status I do not deserve . . . Right now the truth is harrowing enough for aging, impotent intellectual Adrian Mole: He's 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. But there's one upside: Adrian's son has inherited his mother's unblemished skin. Is it any wonder that at 34¾ Adrian is still punishingly self-aware and willfully deluded about what he's endured and what he's yet to achieve? Struggling somewhere between breakthrough and breakdown, he's telling his diary everything. The result? Adrian's fifth *Book of Revelation*—and it's “quite possibly, a classic” (Daily Mirror).

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.

Adrian Mole has entered early middle age and is now ‘the same age as Jesus was 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 has an on/off relationship with his housing officer, Pamela Pigg. Will she help him to move from the notorious Gaitskell estate before William joins the Mad Frankie Fraser fan club? In the meantime, Adrian continues to be scandalised by his irresponsible parents who are conducting a matrimonial square-dance with the Braithwaites – the parents of the beautiful but unobtainable Pandora, who is ruthlessly pursuing her ambition to be New Labour's first woman P.M. – 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.

Seventeen years ago Angela Carr aborted an unwanted child. The father, Christopher Moore, was devastated by the loss and the couple went their separate ways. Years later, whilst walking his dog on the heath, a horrifying discovery compels Christopher to confront Angela about the past.

From the highly acclaimed author of *Caterpillar Summer* comes a heartfelt story about the sweetness and stings of middle-school friendship. Meg has always found comfort in her best friend Beatrix's shadow. Self-assured Beatrix is the one who makes decisions, and the girls have been a pair since kindergarten. But middle school has brought some changes in Beatrix, especially when Meg tries to step outside her role as sidekick. A special science elective is Meg's first step away, but when she's paired with quirky new girl Hazel, Beatrix steps in to stake her claim on Meg. Meg is taken aback at how mean Beatrix can be—and how difficult it is to stand up to her friend. But as Meg gets to know Hazel while working on their backyard beehive project, she starts to wonder: Is being Beatrix's friend worth turning down the possibility of finding her own voice? This pitch-perfect exploration of middle-school friendship dynamics brims with heart and hope, and will resonate with readers of all ages. Acclaim for *Caterpillar Summer* An Indies Introduce Pick A Texas Bluebonnet Selection A Parents Best Book of the Year A Kirkus Reviews Best Book of the Year An Amazon Best Book of the Year

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

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.

The queen abdicates and places Charles in the position of choosing between the throne and his wife.

*The Queen and I* Random House (UK)

Discover the brilliantly funny True Confessions of Margaret Hilda Roberts by Sue Townsend, 'the funniest person in the world' - Caitlin Moran, The Times Tuesday May 24th Had a lie in until 6am. Then got out of bed and had a brisk rub down with the pumice stone. I opened the curtains and saw that the sun was shining brightly. (A suspicion is growing in my mind that the BBC is not to be trusted.) Margaret Hilda Roberts is a rather ambitious 14 1/4 year old grocer's daughter from Grantham. She can't abide laziness, finds four hours of chemistry homework delightful and believes she is of royal birth - or at least destined for great things. But Margaret knows that good things never come to those who wait . . . These are the secret diary entries of a girl born into an ordinary life, yet who might just go on to become something really rather extraordinary, and she is brilliantly brought vividly to life by bestselling author Sue Townsend, Britain's favourite comic writer for over three decades. 'Essential reading for Mole followers' Times Educational Supplement 'Wonderfully funny and sharp as knives' Sunday Times

The final chapter in the beloved chronicles of an angsty Brit begun in The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Aged 13 3/4 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 13 3/4 . . . 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).

Glimpse into the life of one of Britain's best-loved comic writers - Sue Townsend - with this hilarious collection of her anecdotes and musings. \_\_\_\_\_ Enter the world of Susan Lilian Townsend - all our welcome! This sparkling collection of Sue Townsend's hilarious non-fiction covers everything from hosepipe bans to Spanish restaurants, from writer's block to slug warfare, from slob holidays to the banning of beige. These funny, perceptive and touching pieces reveal Sue, ourselves and the nation in an extraordinary new light. Sit back and chortle away as one of Britain's most popular and acclaimed writers takes a feather to your funny bone. Witty, and laugh-out-loud funny, The Public Confessions of a Middle-Aged Woman (Aged 55 3/4) is essential reading for any Sue Townsend fan. \_\_\_\_\_ 'Anyone who loved The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole will enjoy this collection of witty and sharply observed jottings from the inimitable Sue Townsend. Great stuff' OK! 'Full of homely, hilarious asides on the absurdities of domestic existence . . . What a fantastic advertisement for middle-age - it can't be bad if it's this funny' Heat 'A welcome addition to any bookshelf' Hello! 'It's as if Townsend has caught our idiosyncrasies on candid camera and is showing a rerun of all the silly clips . . . the ideal dip-in-and-out book' Time Out

The Queen goes AWOL. No one can find her: where is she going and why? In Emma Tennant's hilarious 'autobiography' of Queen Elizabeth, the monarch moves to the Caribbean island of St Lucia, where, after more than half a century on the throne, she can recall the years of her reign in peace and tranquillity. But the house is no more than a hole in the ground, her servants are gone and no one knows that 'Mrs Gloria Smith' is the Queen of England. The Queen quickly realizes she has a lot to learn about living life as a commoner. The story of the sovereign's new life in St Lucia is a funny and touching account of the friendship, sometimes contentious and on occasion baffling, between Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and a young St Lucian, Austin Ford. How the Queen reacts to her new life- and how she changes as a result- make The Autobiography of the Queen a hilarious and moving tale, in which her need for her subjects is a marked as their dependence on her staying on the throne. "A quiet, quirky charm" - The Times

Can an adult still have a secret diary? Everyone's favorite angsty 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 23 3/4 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).

Behind the doors of the most famous address in the country, all is not well. Edward Clare was voted into Number Ten after a landslide election victory. But a few years later and it is all going wrong. The love of the people is gone. The nation is turning against him. Panicking, Prime Minister Clare enlists the help of Jack Sprat, the policeman on the door of No 10, and sets out to discover what the country really thinks of him. In disguise, they venture into the great unknown: the mean streets of Great Britain. And for the first time in years, the Prime Minister experiences everything life in this country has to offer - an English cream tea, the kindness of strangers, waiting for trains that never come and treatment in a hospital - and at last he remembers some of things he once really cared about . . . 'Wickedly entertaining. There is a gem on nearly every page. Nothing escapes Townsend's withering pen. Satirical, witty, observant . . . a clever book.' Observer 'A delight. Genuinely funny . . . compassion shines through the unashamedly ironic social commentary.' Guardian 'Poignant, hilarious, heart-rending, devastating.' New Statesman 'Hilarious. Sue Townsend's laughter is infectious.' John Mortimer, Sunday Telegraph Books of the Year

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