



# Skittledog

2023 Trade Catalogue





*I am delighted to introduce Skittledog, Thames & Hudson's new illustrated book and gift imprint.*

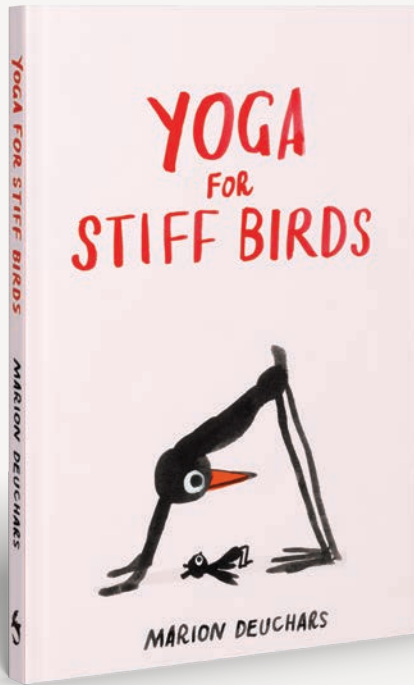
We hit the ground running in January 2022, with a list of titles and a clear plan for the kind of imprint we wanted to build. Next we found the name: Skittledog, a fun little dogfish (making a watery connection to T&H's dolphins), and importantly a word that felt fresh, memorable and surprising. I have been lucky enough to work with an exceptional team, including Angus Hyland and Roly Allen, who share the vision and ambitions of the venture. Our first year's books draw on familiar genres and give them a twist: fun activity books on collage, dot-to-dot and colouring; a fresh and accessible new craft series starting with linocut; a houseplant gardener and writing coach 'in a box'; a pop-tastic little series for lovers of chocolate and coffee; and – to kick the whole thing off – an original take on yoga (for stiff birds) by the brilliant Marion Deuchars.

At Skittledog we love a fun idea, a catchy title and, in particular, illustration from contemporary talent around the world. Although our books are visually strong and beautifully packaged to maximise desirability, we make sure they deliver on content, always thinking about how to make them useful and engaging – books and gifts you will want to keep forever (unless we invite you to cut them up!).

I hope you enjoy our debut list!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zara Larcombe', written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Zara Larcombe**  
Publisher



Marion Deuchars' distinctive and individual style has established her as one of the UK's leading visual creatives. She has won Gold and Silver awards at the Art Directors Club NY, and three D&AD yellow pencils. She has also written numerous books including *Let's Make Some Great Art*, *Bob the Artist*, *Art Play* and *Colour*; these have been translated into many languages including French, German, Spanish, Italian, Catalan, Japanese, Chinese, Portuguese and Dutch.

200 illustrations  
 18.0 × 13.0 cm (7 $\frac{1}{8}$  × 5 $\frac{1}{8}$  in.)  
 80 pp Hardback  
 £10  
 March 2023  
 978 1 837 76012 1

## Yoga for Stiff Birds

Marion Deuchars

*Loosen up with a smile on your face.*

- A distinctive fresh take on yoga from the bestselling author of *Let's Make Great Art* and *Bob the Artist*.
- The cute package makes for easy point-of-sale placement and impulse-buy gifting.
- A perennial topic that's ripe for a new treatment.

Marion Deuchars has practised yoga for many years, and well knows the benefits it brings. Now she shares that passion through her illustrated bird, whose expressive poses will charm you into a reviving session of yoga breathing, stretching, posing and mindfulness.

Everyone who sees this book falls in love with it. Join them!

A4

**WHERE to START?**

START WITH A 60-MINUTE SEATED POSE. IF YOU FEEL IT MOST COMFORTABLE WITH YOUR PRACTICE AND IN A GOOD PLACE TO START

SEATED POSE  
**EASY/COMFORTABLE**  
Sukhasana

SIT CROSS-LEGGED, USE A BLOCK OR ROLLED UP TOWEL IF NECESSARY UNDER BOTTOM. FEEL THE TORSO, NECK, CHEST AND NECK. HANDED IN LAP

DEEP SLOW BREATHS

You can also sit on a chair if you're having trouble with your feet. Good for older people.



YOGA FLOW TO EXERCISE THE BODY AND WAKE UP SPINE. REPEAT 3 TIMES

1. **TABLE TOP**  
Bharmansana  
ON ALL FOURS, HIPS OVER KNEES, SHOULDERS OVER WRISTS, KNEES HIP-DISTANT APART.

2. **CAT**  
Marjaryasana  
EASIER AS YOU DRAW YOUR BELLY IN, ROUND YOUR BACK, ROLL IN THE NECK. DRAW YOUR BELLY IN AND UP.

3. **COW**  
Bitilasana  
SHOULDER AS FAR BACK AS YOU CAN, PELVIS FORWARD, TORSO DRAW FORWARD, ANGLE SHOULDERS, EXTEND NECK UP.

Deep Stretch



STANDING POSE

**WARRIOR I**  
Virabhadrasana I

FEET HIP WIDTH, HIPS FACING FORWARD, STEP YOUR RIGHT FOOT FORWARD, BENDING YOUR KNEE. STRETCH ARMS UP, REACH TO THE SKY.


Good for balance



STANDING POSE

**WARRIOR II**  
Virabhadrasana II

FEET WIDE AND PARALLEL TURN LEFT TOES IN 45°, RIGHT TOES OUT 90°, LUNGE TO RIGHT, KNEE ABOVE ANKLE. ARMS STRETCHED OUT TO SIDE. REPEAT ON OTHER SIDE.







Elin Svensson's playful and harmonious illustrations show off her command of colour, texture and form. Aimed at the head and the heart, these sophisticated combinations of tone and gradient have won her clients like adidas, Apotek Hjärtat, *The Business of Fashion*, Facebook, *The Financial Times*, Grafik Magazine, *The Guardian*, IKEA, Stockholms Kulturfestival, Sveriges Stadsmissioner, *The Wall Street Journal* and *Zeit Wissen*. She lives in Stockholm, Sweden.

Box: 26.7 × 26.7 × 5cm  
(10<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> × 10<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> × 2 in.)  
Puzzle: 65cm (25<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> in.)  
in diameter  
£19.99 (£16.66 + VAT)

Forest Dream  
March 2023  
978 1 837 76004 6

Reef Dream  
May 2023  
978 1 837 76005 3

## Forest Dream

### A Flow State Jigsaw Puzzle

## Reef Dream

### A Flow State Jigsaw Puzzle

Illustrated by Elin Svensson

*Discover the calming power of the flow state with two nature-themed jigsaw puzzles.*

- **Jigsaw puzzling is a growing trend:** more and more people are turning to this calming, mindful pastime.
- **Abstract gradient puzzles are already popular;** this is the first to use gradient-based art in a circular form, specially designed to engender a flow state.
- **FSC materials and plastic-free packaging** minimise ecological impact.
- **The luxuriously finished packaging and the circular puzzle combine** to make this a highly desirable gift.

We all know flow, even if we don't yet know what to call it: that blissful state of absorption, when you're so engaged with what you're doing that you don't notice the time passing. Psychologists now know that it brings us a host of mental health benefits: balance, tranquility and less stress.

Spread out the puzzle pieces and discover it for yourself!



A4



## Join the Dogs! Satisfyingly Difficult Dot-to-Dot Puzzles

## Join the Drag Queens!

Satisfyingly Difficult  
Dot-to-Dot Puzzles

Illustrated by Jennie Edwards

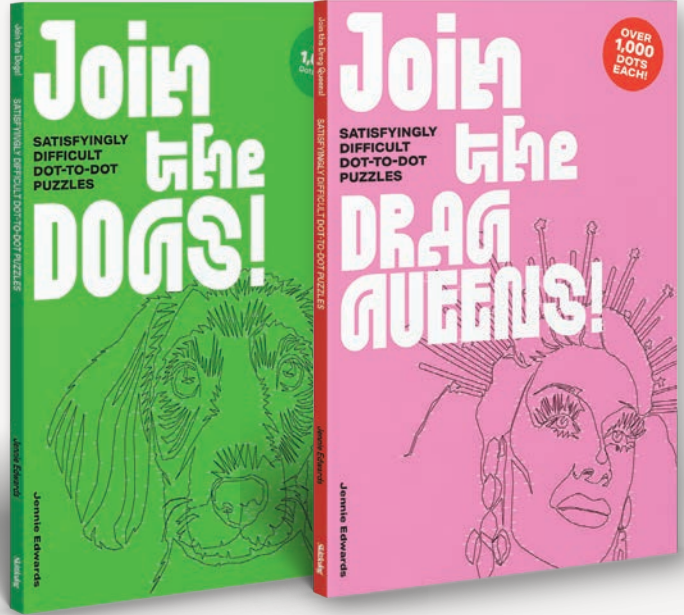
*Fun-loving puzzlers  
will love revealing the  
surprising faces in these  
absorbing dot-to-dot  
books.*

Jennie Edwards is a freelance illustrator based in Brighton. She has illustrated articles or campaigns for a host of clients including *Cosmopolitan France*, British Airways, *New Scientist*, Emirates Airlines, *Condé Nast Traveller*, *Creative Review*, *The Sunday Times*, Cathay Pacific, Vue Cinemas and more.

20 puzzles  
35.5 × 25.4 cm (14 × 10½ in.)  
48 pp Paperback  
£12.99 (£10.82 + VAT)

Join the Dogs!  
March 2023  
978 1 837 76008 4

Join the Drag Queens!  
May 2023  
978 1 837 76009 1



- **There's a huge market for grown-up dot-to-dot puzzles:** this takes the genre into a fun new area.
- **Both topics are popular themes** for gift and puzzle products...
- **Queens include** Trixie Mattel, Bimini Bon Boulash, Courtney Act, Raven, Bianca Del Rio, Bob the Drag Queen, Kim Chi, RuPaul and Adore Delano.
- **Newly created dot-to-dot puzzles** from a talented illustrator and the team who created the multi-million-selling *1000 Dot-to-Dot* series.

Twenty dot-to-dot puzzles, each with around one thousand dots, making for an incredibly satisfying puzzle challenge. Pick up a pen or pencil and discover a world of quirky dotting fun!









Leila Duly is a textile print designer based in East Sussex. Inspired by the English countryside, her hand-drawn work celebrates botanical and wildlife scenes, and has appeared in campaigns for Historic Royal Palaces, Victoria's Secret and a host of fashion brands. This is her third colouring book.

c. 70 illustrations  
 31.0 × 23.5 cm (12¼ × 9⅝ in.)  
 80 pp Paperback  
 £14.99 (£12.49 + VAT)  
 May 2023  
 978 1 837 76000 8

## Leila Duly's Beautiful Planet

An Intricate  
 Colouring Book

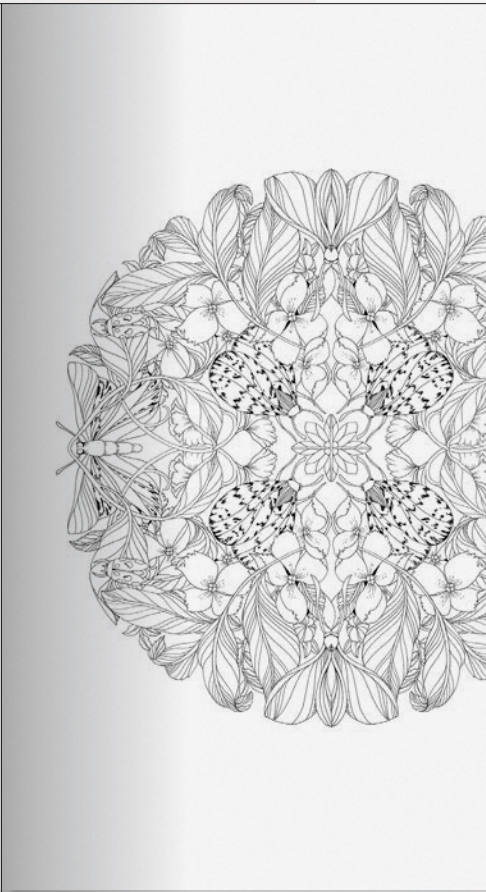
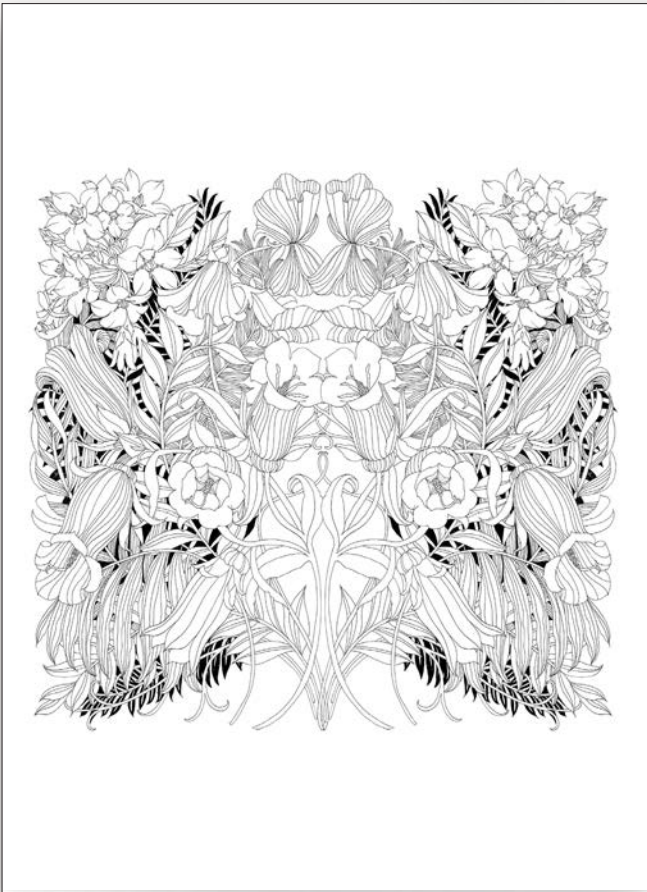
*Colour the wonders and  
 wildlife of the natural  
 world.*

- Like this category's best-sellers, this stands above the competition thanks to its stylish package and distinctive artwork.
- The colouring category has become a steady perennial with a committed and discerning audience.
- Freshly hand-drawn art from a name illustrator – no Shutterstock!

Leila Duly, one of the UK's most talented botanical illustrators, scored huge hits with her first two colouring books *Floribunda* (2016) and *The Flower Year* (2017). Now she returns, her distinctive fluid line style perfectly showcasing the glories of the natural world.

You'll find beautiful floral bouquets, crisp corals and cheeky animals – so don't hesitate: pick up your pencils and bring them to life!

A4





Eliza Scott, who selected the images, has degrees in both literature and art and is Features Editor of *Lula* magazine.

Maria Rivans, who created the cover and the step-by-step instructions, is an acclaimed collage artist who lives and works in Brighton, UK.

800+ illustrations  
 31.0 × 23.5 cm (12¼ × 9⅜ in.)  
 128 pp Paperback  
 £14.99 (£12.49 + VAT)  
 May 2023  
 978 1 837 76002 2

## Cut Up This Book and Create Your Own Wonderland

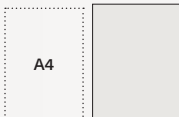
Curated by Eliza Scott

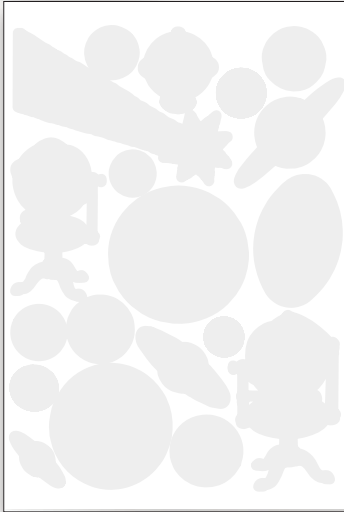
*Create mind-bending new worlds in collage with over eight hundred surprising images.*

- Collage has exploded in popularity, creating a strong demand for curated collections of high-quality images.
- Every picture is carefully scaled, clipped and colour-corrected: tinted outlines on the reverse of each image help the artist cut them out neatly and easily.
- Wonderland makes the perfect theme for collage artists, with a host of surreal and dreamlike associations and a wealth of inspiring reference points.

From the same team that created the bestselling *Extraordinary Things to Cut Out and Collage* comes this new collection of surprising images: a trip down the rabbit hole that will blow your mind and add new life to your collage art.

Collage has never been easier!







## Linocut Learn in a Weekend

Nick Morley

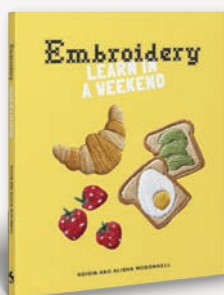
*Make prints to be proud of  
in no time at all.*

- **Linocut is the most accessible of print media;** even cheap kits yield high-quality results.
- **Nick has years of experience** teaching beginners how to make their own prints, and knows how to overcome the stumbling blocks that they face.
- **The proven 'in a weekend' promise** has a realistic appeal and allows anyone to get started with confidence and ambition.

The first title in Skittledog's *Learn in a Weekend* series, bringing art and craft skills to a whole new audience. Linocut is a perennially popular medium for the amateur artist, as the forgiving process makes it possible for a beginner to come up with powerfully graphic results using basic equipment; this book will show you how.

Nick Morley (aka Linocutboy) has been a professional linocut artist for more than two decades; his clients include food and drink brands, many magazines, and publishers including Penguin, Faber, Bloomsbury and the Folio Society. He also teaches printing, and has written one instructional book. He lives and works in Margate, UK.

c. 240 illustrations  
21.5 × 17.0 cm (8½ × 6¾ in.)  
80 pp Paperback  
£12.99  
June 2023  
978 1 837 76010 7



## Embroidery Learn in a Weekend

Alisha McDonnell, Roisin McDonnell

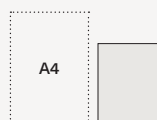
*An easy way to get into  
needlecraft, with  
instructions, templates  
and contemporary  
projects.*

- **Embroidery is booming** as a younger demographic takes up traditional creative pastimes.
- **The authors know this market** – with years of experience giving workshops and selling patterns, they understand what subjects and aesthetics sell.
- **Sew Botanical have a strong online following** with thousands of Etsy sales and 26K followers on Instagram.

The traditional craft of embroidery has gained fresh excitement as a new generation of stitchers bring contemporary style to subjects like houseplants and modern interiors. This smart little book, written with beginners in mind, perfectly captures that aesthetic and gives you the skills you need to succeed.

Alisha and Roisin McDonnell built Sew Botanical, their online store, from the ground up, beginning with nothing but a few skeins of thread and their visual flair. They now have a thriving international business, running workshops for beginners and creating kits and templates to get people started.

c. 240 illustrations  
21.5 × 17.0 cm (8½ × 6¾ in.)  
80 pp Paperback  
£12.99  
October 2023  
978 1 837 76019 0



# PRINTING

You've carved your lino block – now you need to print it. This is the fun part, but it's also where things sometimes go wrong. I've been printing for 20 years and things still don't always go right for me, so don't worry if you don't get perfect results at once. Follow these instructions and practise lots, and you'll get there! And have fun trying: printmaking is as much about the process as the end results.

A desk or table is a good place to set up for printing. You will need an ink slab to roll out your ink. You can use a sheet of glass or perspex, or white acrylic sheet. Make sure you have somewhere to put your ink roller and knife, and your lino block while you ink it. Your work surface should be flat so the block sits flat. If you are a messy person, cover the table with newspaper or a wipeable plastic tablecloth. Wearing an apron is recommended, as the inks can stain clothing.

Judging the right amount of ink to use is a skill you will acquire through practice. If you use too much, ink will go into the carved-out areas, resulting in loss of detail and smudgy edges. If you don't use enough ink, your print will be light and patchy.

## What you will need

- Your finished lino block
- Printing ink
- Ink slab
- Ink knife
- Ink roller
- Dry rag
- Paper for printing on
- Registration template
- Masking tape
- Wooden spoon or baren
- Sponge or cloth and washing-up liquid, for cleaning
- Paper towel
- Newspaper, for cleaning
- Bucket (optional)
- Rubber gloves (optional)
- Zest-it or another citrus-based solvent



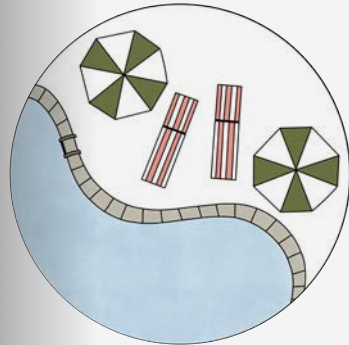
## Edge of pool and water

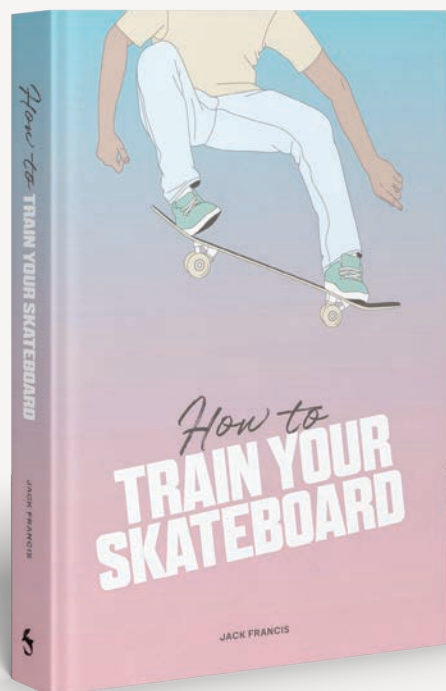


1. The edge of the pool is made up of blocks. Use three strands of Anchor 90 to make evenly spaced single stitches along the poolside in order to create darker grey lines between each block. This gives the poolside blocks definition, and stitching these lines first also gives you a guide for stitching the lighter grey of the blocks.
2. Since it's an aerial shot, there is a hint of a harker coming up out of the pool. To achieve the right amount of detail, use two strands of Anchor 401 and three or four Satin stitches for each part of the harker.



3. Complete the poolside by using two strands of DMC 413 and Satin stitch to make the lighter grey sections, stitching in between the darker grey lines so they look like blocks of stone.
4. Using two strands of DMC 3125 and Satin stitch, which form 50% edge-of-keep-to-right edge-of-pool, in order to keep the outside line of the water as uniform as possible. Since you are only using two strands, the water section will take you the longest, but it is excellent practice for future projects.





**Jack Francis** learned to skateboard soon after he learned to walk, and has since ridden his deck in cities around the world. He now teaches skateboarding in Brighton, UK. **Ewa Zak** is a Berlin-based illustrator and designer.

c. 150 illustrations  
 19.8 x 13.7 cm (7<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub> x 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> in.)  
 144 pp Hardback  
 £14.99  
 June 2023  
 978 1 837 76006 0

## How to Train Your Skateboard

Jack Francis,  
 Illustrated by Ewa Zak

*The thirteen tricks and moves that all skaters need, stylishly presented.*

- **Skateboarding has never been bigger**, and the boards themselves are one of the most popular gifts for older kids and teens.
- **The author has years of experience** teaching the fundamental tricks that all skaters need to master.
- **There's little competition**, despite the size of the potential market, and the fresh approach makes this a compelling gift.

The Tokyo Olympics saw freestyle skateboarding arrive with a bang, as young competitors from all over the world astonished us with their skill, energy and camaraderie. Their contests also showed everyone what skateboarders already knew: that even the most advanced routines draw from a small repertoire of basic moves.

With contemporary illustration and all the expertise of Jack's life spent skateboarding, this book shows you how to pull all of them off.

A4





**FOOT POSITIONING**

Your back foot should be on the tail and your front foot between the bolts and the center of the board. The balls of both your feet should line up in the middle of the board, don't let your toes hang off the edge.

# The OLLIE

This is a really important one as it is the basis for almost all flip tricks and grinds. As with everything you do on a skateboard, it takes a lot of practice to get right. It's a combination of a few movements so if you're finding it difficult to do then practise the different stages one by one, if you're not getting one bit right then the rest will be tough. It's best to try each stage on the spot before attempting it while moving.

SECTION 1: GETTING STARTED

## The OLLIE

**FOOT POSITIONING**

Don't lean your shoulders, keep your back straight or the board will wobble and it will be more difficult to land.

Don't lean back over the tail, keep your back over the board. If you lean forward the board'll bounce when you take your feet up, then it will probably be the reason.

1. Ollies work by lifting the tail of the board off the ground. This is called popping the board. To do this you need to bend your knees and push off your back foot, the one's 'popping'. Make sure you pop off the tail of your foot, so why that's necessary to jumping off the ground with your feet, you can't get any high. Don't forget the front foot and the tail to be together on the board when it pops.

PARTS OF THE SKATEBOARD

2. Once you're able to pop the board off the ground you can start thinking about your other foot. You'll notice as the board pops that the front foot goes up at an angle. Now you need to use your front foot to straighten out the board. When the board has popped and is in the air, when your front foot has the same stance the rear foot goes back being the middle of the board, and towards the edges on the board will wobble.

3. Now the board is flat so the only way to pop is to pop to the front. Keep your body directly over the board, straighten your back so they're flat on the top of the deck and make sure.

4. As you land you may need to bend your knees a little to take the impact and help you keep your balance.

SECTION 2: BASIC SKILLS

## ROLLING IN

Rolling in is when you get down a ramp from the top by rolling into it. The first thing you will need to try this on is a bank. The difficulty will depend entirely on how big and steep the bank is, but the overall technique is the same no matter the size. When standing on your skateboard on flat ground you can stand straight up and maintain balance with relative ease when you're standing on your skateboard on a sloped surface this isn't the case, and you have to redistribute your weight in order to maintain stability on your board.

Here you get enough speed to roll into the ramp and stop on the ramp before you reach the top. You have a few seconds of space there and the rest of it is a bank. All these situations are the same, you just get your feet in the standard foot position before you pop the board. This may have very little space at the top of the ramp but make the shift to get your feet in position and then 'plop' there a little, you're your front wheel on your back wheel. This may make sense if you're standing on the ground but it's still off to one side on the ramp.

Now you're rolling on you might see a bump or a curve in the ramp. When you see that you can lean your body into it. If you're leaning into it, you'll be able to take the bump and you'll be able to take the curve. If you're leaning away from it, you'll be able to take the bump and you'll be able to take the curve.

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REMEMBER

Remember when the back of your feet is on the tail of the board, the only way to make your back foot pop is to pop off the tail of the board. This is why you need to pop off the tail of the board when you pop.

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SECTION 3: BASIC SKILLS

## STOPPING

Once you're moving you're eventually going to want to come to a stop and there are a few different ways to do this that vary in terms of ease, practicality and style.

**Place feet on ground**

The simplest way to stop is essentially the same as when you're standing on the ground. You just lean forward, take your front foot off the board and place it on the ground. You'll need to place it slightly behind your front foot and adjust your leg so you don't lose your balance. This is a good way to stop when you're moving slowly or when you're in a situation where you need to stop quickly. It's also a good way to stop when you're in a situation where you need to stop quickly.

**Tail stop**

This is a good way to stop by dragging the tail of the board on the ground. As you're moving along with your feet in the standard foot position, lift up your front foot by bending your front leg and lower your back foot by straightening your back leg. This position is like standing on one leg while in your skateboard. This will push the board into the ground and stop it. This is a good way to stop when you're moving quickly or when you're in a situation where you need to stop quickly.

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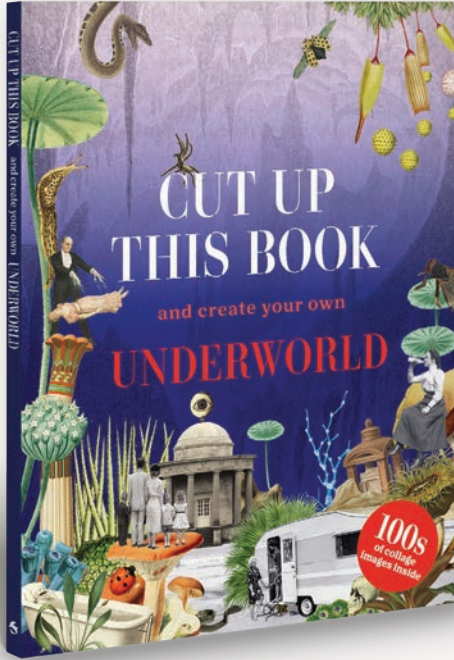
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Eliza Scott, who selected the images, has degrees in both literature and art and is Features Editor of *Lula* magazine. Maria Rivans, who created the cover and the step-by-step introduction, is an acclaimed collage artist who lives and works in Brighton, UK.

c. 1,000 illustrations  
 31.0 × 23.5 cm (12¼ × 9⅝ in.)  
 128 pp Paperback  
 £14.99 (£12.49 + VAT)  
 August 2023  
 978 1 837 76003 9

## Cut Up This Book and Create Your Own Underworld

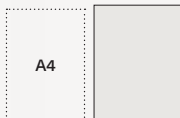
Curated by Eliza Scott

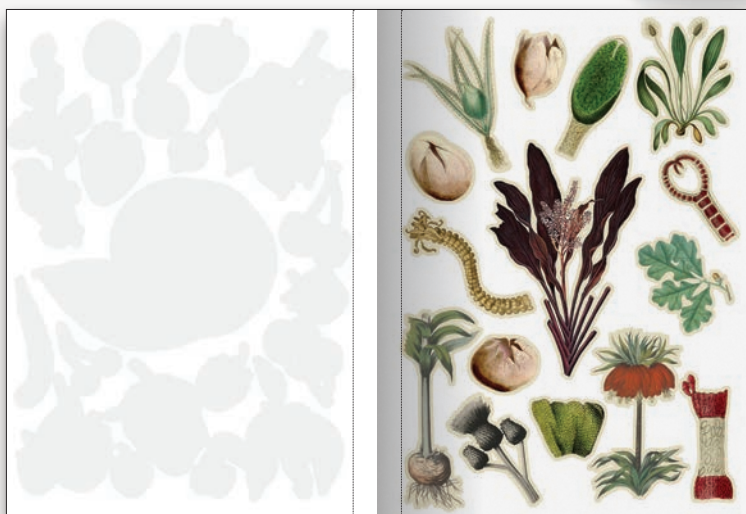
*Create mind-bending new worlds in collage with over one thousand surprising images.*

- Collage has exploded in popularity, creating a strong demand for curated collections of high-quality images.
- Every picture is carefully scaled, clipped and colour-corrected: tinted outlines on the reverse of each image help the artist cut them out neatly and easily.
- Underworld gives collage artists a host of surreal and sinister associations and a wealth of inspiring reference points.

From the same team that created the bestselling *Extraordinary Things to Cut Out and Collage* comes this new collection of hair-raising images: a walk in the shadows that will chill you, thrill you, and bring new life to your art.

Collage has never been easier; discover it with this incredible collection.





## How to Drink Coffee

## How to Eat Chocolate

Sarah Ford  
Illustrated by Kari Modén

*Life's tastiest little pleasures, richly illustrated and guaranteed to raise a smile.*

Sarah Ford has written many giftable bestsellers including *50 Ways to Kill a Slug*, *What Would Unicorn Do?*, *Be a Flamingo*, *The Chinese Zodiac* and *It's the Little Things*.

Kari Modén, who created the unique illustrations, has a stellar client list including Bonnier Fakta, *Cosmopolitan*, *Die Zeit*, Dorling Kindersley, *Elle*, *GQ*, *Tatler*, *The Guardian*, *The New Yorker*, and *The New York Times*.



- **A giftable little series** celebrating life's tastiest pleasures, presented with a touch of style.
- **We all know** a chocaholic and a caffeine addict who'll enjoy new ways to get their fix!
- **The distinctive package**, arresting titling and dramatic illustrations make the books stand out from the crowd.

With these charmingly giftable titles, you'll discover how to tame the world's two most beloved tastes. Sarah Ford's expertise makes these book a lifesaver for the person in your life who simply can't do anything before their first cup of the day or who lives and breathes for their chocolate fix.

45 illustrations  
18.5 x 13.5 cm (7<sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub> x 5<sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub> in.)  
128 pp Hardback  
£14.99

How to Drink Coffee  
October 2023  
978 1 837 76022 0

How to Eat Chocolate  
September 2023  
978 1 837 76014 5

A4

**Coffee Ice Cream** An easy, make-at-home version of a favourite dessert.

**MAKES ABOUT 600ML**

- 1 x 397g can condensed milk
- 150ml strong-brewed coffee
- 300ml double cream
- melted chocolate, for drizzling

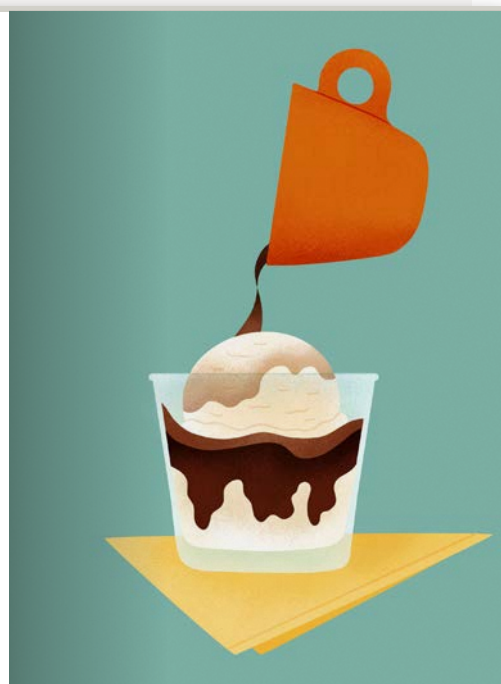
Mix the condensed milk with the coffee and chill in the refrigerator. Whip the double cream until thick then fold into the chilled coffee. Freeze in a sealed ice cream container for about 6 hours. Give it a really good stir after a couple of hours to break up the ice crystals, then return to the freezer. Serve drizzled with melted chocolate.

**Affogato** The Italian word *affogato* means 'drowned' in English. The idea is that you drown a scoop of vanilla gelato in a shot of espresso. The result is a creamy, sharp and sweet dessert, the perfect ending to a meal. It's especially good if you can't decide whether you want dessert or coffee!

**Variations**

- Add some crumbled amaretti biscuits or biscotti to the ice cream.
- Add a splash of liqueur to the coffee - try grappa, Drambuie or brandy.

110



**Jazzy Chocolate Pretzels** are the best fun for anyone from two to a hundred years old. Place all the ingredients in little bowls and let everyone go to town decorating the pretzels. It is bound to get messy, so choose a wipe-clean surface. These pretzels are deliciously salty and sweet.

- 1 large bag of salted pretzels
- 100g white chocolate, melted (see page 18)
- 100g milk chocolate, melted (see page 18)
- 100g dark chocolate, melted (see page 18)
- selection of toppings, such as dried raspberry pieces, coloured sprinkles, desiccated coconut, fine pink rock salt, coloured icing for drizzling, edible glitter

Dip the pretzels in the melted chocolate or drizzle them with chocolate using a teaspoon, then place them on a sheet of baking paper. Before the chocolate starts to set, sprinkle the pretzels with your toppings. When finished, leave the chocolate to set for 20 minutes.

- You will also need:**
- nonstick baking paper

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## Houseplant Gardener in a Box

Jane Perrone,  
Illustrated by Cody Bond

*Watch your home come to life with flowers and foliage, thanks to expert advice from the Houseplant Gardener.*

- **Practical advice:** which plants to choose, where to put them, and how to help them flourish.
- **The format makes the advice easy to discover:** its cards are categorised by topic, so you can find the information you need in an instant.
- **Contemporary illustration** makes the set an appealing and immediate gift.

Nothing brings a room to life like the green of a thriving houseplant. Interior designers love them, and they make us happier and healthier too. But you need knowledge: and that's where the *Houseplant Gardener* comes in: sixty practical and informative cards and a 32-page book, in a uniquely practical package.

Jane Perrone, an obsessive houseplant gardener since the age of eight, has turned her passion into a respected expertise. She has written for *The Guardian*, *The Financial Times*, *Gardens Illustrated* and *Garden Design Journal*, has produced over 200 episodes of her houseplant podcast *On The Ledge*, and is a member of the Royal Horticultural Society's Advisory Committee on Houseplants.

60 illustrations

Box: 16.6 × 10.8 × 3.5 cm (6 $\frac{5}{8}$  × 4 $\frac{3}{8}$  × 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  in.)

60 illustrated cards + a 32-page practical handbook

£19.99 (£16.66 + VAT)

October 2023

978 1 837 76016 9



## Writing Coach in a Box

Alan Anderson

*Plain-speaking advice for anyone who writes professionally or for pleasure.*

- **Master the details and the big picture:** which verbs to choose, how to balance a paragraph, when to close a chapter, and what makes a character compelling.
- **The format makes the set uniquely practical:** cards are categorised by topic, so writers can find the help they need in an instant.
- **Professional expertise** from a publisher and author who has worked with words for decades.

What should you look for when you're re-reading a draft? What are the most common mistakes first-time authors make? How can you inject excitement into flat prose? How do you make readers root for your protagonist? What verbs should you avoid, and which must you use? This ingenious toolkit answers all these questions and hundreds more, and will help novelists, memoirists, journalists, copywriters and bloggers craft better prose.

Alan Anderson is the pen-name of the Writing Coach, who works for a major UK publishing house and has been, under various names, published by Harper Collins, Profile, Laurence King, Carlton, and Red Wheel & Weiser. He has coached several authors to their first publishing deals, and ghost-written many memoirs and how-to titles.

c. 15 illustrations

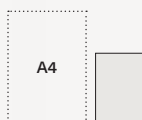
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November 2023

978 1 837 76017 6





CYCLAMEN PERSICUM

### Persian cyclamen

*Cyclamen persicum*  
Florist's cyclamen, indoor cyclamen

You may be drawn in by the cyclamen's candy-coloured, butterfly-like blooms, but the silver-inscribed foliage is just as pretty. This is the perfect plant for unheated porches and bright, cool rooms: It hates stuffy centrally-heated spaces. Florist's cyclamen is often treated as a throwaway seasonal plant, as it will die back completely after flowering for around eight to ten weeks. Keep the seemingly bare pot cool and dry during this dormancy, and it should resprout from the underground tuber. Depending on the variety, it may flower during autumn, winter or spring.

- ↑ **HEIGHT AND SPREAD** 20cm x 20cm.
- ⊖ **WATER AND HUMIDITY** Keep soil moist but do not let the pot sit in water. Hates dry air.
- ☀ **LIGHT** Bright light and morning sun in winter.
- ⚡ **MINIMUM TEMPERATURE** 5C.
- 🌱 **MAKING MORE** Grown from seed, or lift and divide the tuber in autumn.
- ⚠ **WATCH OUT FOR...** Fuzzy grey patches caused by cyclamen grey mould. Remove dead leaves and flowers promptly.



MONSTERA DELICIOSA

### Monstera 'Monkey Mask'

*Monstera odorata*  
Swiss cheese vine

This plant has taken the houseplant world by storm, and no wonder. This relative of the swiss cheese plant (*Monstera deliciosa*) has the same perforated leaves but does not grow as huge, making it suitable for most modern homes. It will trail when young, but over time, growth is better when the vines have a structure to climb. In its native home in Central and South America, it will become a thick vine that scrambles up tall trees, but you can easily tame your plant by cutting back the vines if it becomes spindly (usually a symptom of not enough light) or goes out of bounds.

- ↑ **HEIGHT AND SPREAD** 2m x 1m.
- ⊖ **WATER AND HUMIDITY** 80% humidity will help this plant grow well; water thoroughly when the top half of the substrate feels dry.
- ☀ **LIGHT** Bright light and some morning sun.
- ⚡ **MINIMUM TEMPERATURE** 15C.
- 🌱 **SOIL** Specialist aroid compost, or houseplant compost mixed 3:1 with fine bark, perlite or other drainage material.
- 🌱 **MAKING MORE** Stem cuttings will root in water or soil.
- ⚠ **WATCH OUT FOR...** Pale marks on the leaves can be a sign of nutrient deficiency. This is a hungry plant, so feed regularly with a foliage houseplant feed.



PEPEROMIA ARGYREA

### String of turtles

*Peperomia prostrata*  
Trailing peperomia, magic marmoset

This little plant from Ecuador grows rooks and cranies in trees, creeping and trailing into the most auspicious spots. Its diminutive size makes this a great terrarium plant, where it will appreciate the high humidity that mimics its home ground. String of turtles also does well in bathrooms or other rooms with moist air. The roots are shallow, so plant in a shallow pot.

- ↑ **HEIGHT AND SPREAD** 30cm x 15cm.
- ⊖ **WATER AND HUMIDITY** Needs moist air.
- ☀ **LIGHT** Bright light but not direct sun.
- ⚡ **MINIMUM TEMPERATURE** 15C.
- 🌱 **SOIL** Cactus and succulent soil or houseplant compost with extra drainage material added.
- 🌱 **MAKING MORE** Leaf cuttings are possible, but fiddly and slow. Stem cuttings work better - place them in a clear plastic container laid on damp perlite until rooted.
- ⚠ **WATCH OUT FOR...** The foliage suddenly rots away. This is usually caused by a combination of overly moist soil and a lack of light.

## 2. World Building

### Is the protagonist ready to roll?

Every story needs a well-drawn protagonist (or hero, or heroine, or lead) for the reader to care about and root for - or sometimes root against. But we are often so involved with our protagonists that we just can't see if they are well drawn or not.

These fourteen questions will help you react under pressure. Because the mind, on the page, and in the n

Above all, you must be certain how you're going to test them, right?

#### Fourteen questions that you need your protagonist to answer

- Do you know which character is your protagonist - and is that absolutely clear to the reader?
- Does your protagonist have a clear world view and set of beliefs that will be challenged by events in the story?
- Do they have a backstory which has fixed these beliefs in their mind?
- What's their fatal flaw?
- What's their hidden strength?
- How will they respond when you test them?
- What's their status in relation to the other characters?
- How do they want to change their status?
- What's their greatest fear?
- And their greatest desire?
- What do they want, but not need?
- What do they need, but not want - yet?
- Who is their mentor?
- Who is their antagonist?

## 12. The Writing Life

### Polish that first draft so it shines

First, put your manuscript away in a drawer. That's what Stephen King does:

*Finishing the first draft is a milestone, a huge achievement. It's a time to celebrate. You should give yourself a month or longer from the manuscript, so you can let it rest the same time you're resting, too.*

When you've let your brain recover, regained some perspective, it's time the manuscript out and start thinking critically. Other cards in this deck will help with the specifics, but here are the principles to bear in mind during the

#### How to think about your second draft

You write a script twice. The first time you pour out all your passion, anger, energy and frustration. Then you go back and write it with your head. (Jimmy McGovern)

So use your head to ask your draft some questions; not asking if it's good or bad, but if each element works. Can you cut this word? Is this sentence as punchy as it can be? Is this paragraph clear and focused? Is this simile cliché? Does this character have a unique voice? Can you cut more quickly into the scene? Hundreds of small cuts and changes will soon improve your work beyond measure.

Changing your document's font will help you look at it afresh. So will printing your draft out and working with a pen, not a keyboard.

Whether you've written fiction or non-fiction, creating a reverse outline from your draft means you can step back and see the bigger picture.

Your second draft will nearly always be much shorter than your first. If your word count comes down by ten percent or more, that's a sign that the process is working!



**Maria Rivans** is a collage artist based in Brighton, UK who has exhibited internationally and is behind the distinctive visual identity of Hendricks' Gin. From her artist statement: *Known for its unique approach to collaging, Rivans' work is in a constant dialogue with cultures of the past, reinventing narratives, while spinning bizarre and dreamlike tales.*

1000-piece rectangular jigsaw puzzle  
68.5 × 49cm (27 × 19½ in.)

Box: 25.5cm × 16.7cm × 8cm  
(10 × 6½ × 3¼ in.)

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## Orient Express Puzzle

Illustrated by Maria Rivans

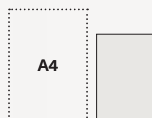
*Take a nostalgic jigsaw journey through a dreamlike collage landscape of travel's most glamorous era.*

- **Copious, colourful and fun**, Maria Rivans's collage art makes perfect jigsaws, with plenty of details to discover.
- **Travel, nostalgia and railway themes** are staples of the jigsaw best-seller lists, and this gives them a fresh spin.
- **A distinctive box adds value** so this doesn't feel like your everyday jigsaw, and the package will stand out in store.
- **Plastic-free packaging** with the pieces kept safe in a paper bag.

Join celebrated collage artist Maria Rivans on a nostalgic jigsaw journey across Europe! Winding through the heart of the continent you'll be delighted by a host of cosmopolitan sights, spectacular landscapes and intriguing pre-war imagery.

The collage will include hundreds of pictures, evoking the stops of the historic Orient Express routes: London, Calais, Paris, Strasbourg, Zurich, Milan, Venice, Trieste, Ljubljana, Zagreb, Innsbruck, Munich, Vienna, Budapest, Belgrade, Sofia, Bucharest, Istanbul, Athens, Berlin... and more.

This evocative, inviting, view of Europe makes a gorgeous celebration of the age of steam.









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