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Books with Heart

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2007

Pomona – *Books with Heart*

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Believe In The Sign by Mark Hodkinson

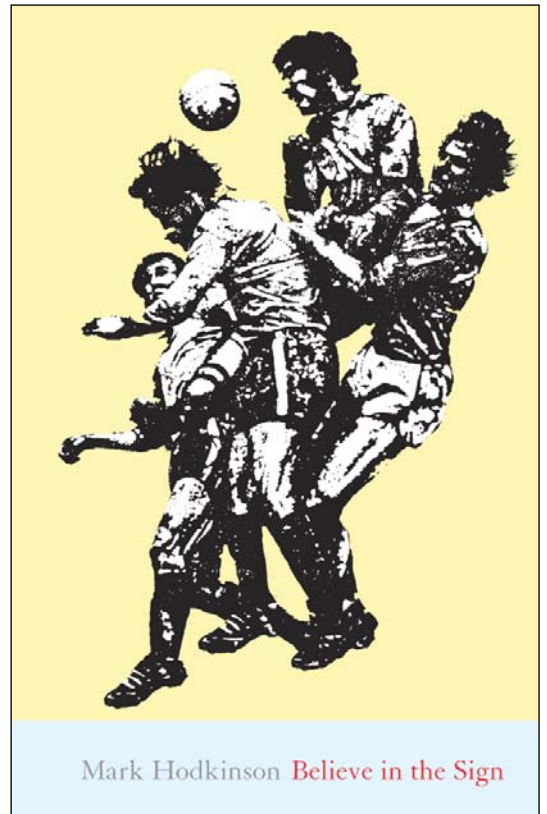
ISBN 1-904590-17-9

Believe in the Sign is about a damp corner of England where nothing much but everything happens. It is a 'sort of' memoir of a normal, average boy who would have grown up happily average and normal but for a dark and perverse passion: the seductive lure of masochistic devotion to a no-hope, near-derelict football club.

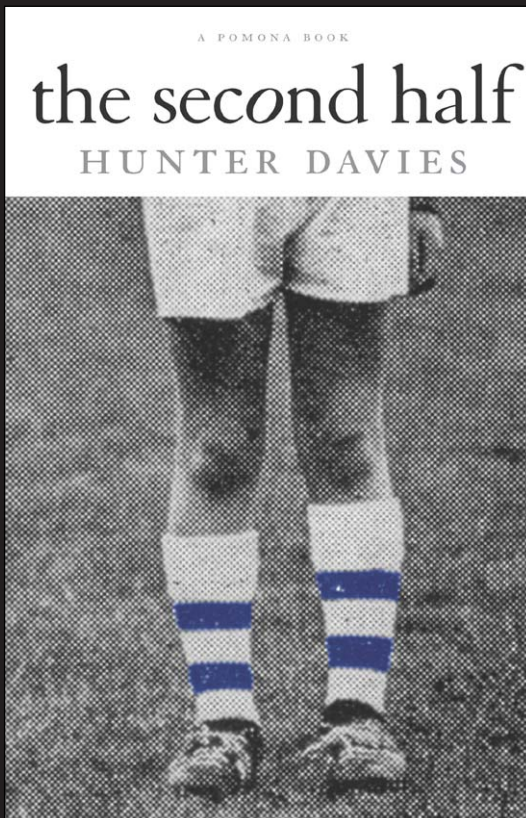
But it isn't all joyously uplifting. Swimming through the murk is a swarm of snapshots that bring growing up in the 1970s and 1980s into startling focus. Mad kids and sad kids and good kids from broken homes; teenage wrecking parties; pub brawls; long existential marches along the motorway banking; the baiting of Elton John and a club chairman caught playing 'away from home.'

Then Death bumps into Life. A girl is abducted and the town becomes a cave, *the light sucked out*. Meanwhile in the sunny shine outside, the future is afoot: cotton mills close down and supermarkets invade; school-leavers evolve into YOP-fodder and everyone's mum is holding Tupperware parties to get the down-payment on a colour telly.

Variouly serious and funny, steely-eyed and tender, Hodkinson plumbs the depths but isn't afraid of the shallows. Dip a toe.



Mark Hodkinson *Believe in the Sign*



The Second Half by Hunter Davies

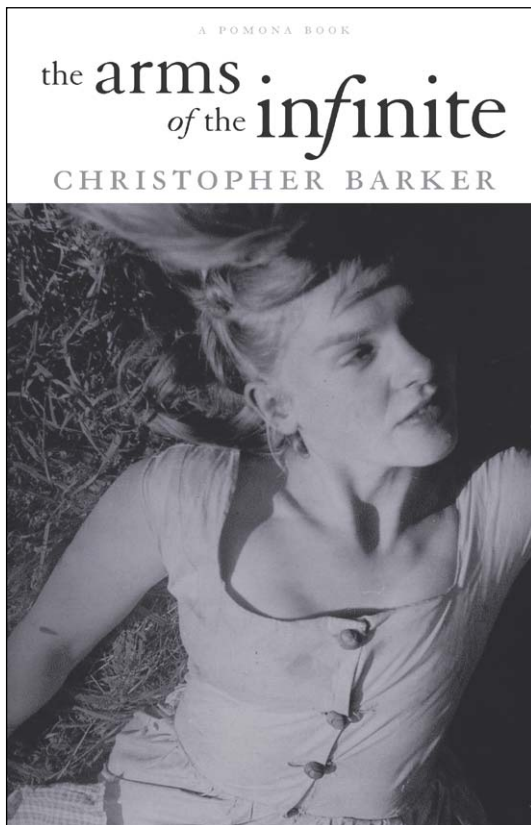
ISBN 1-904590-14-4

The Second Half is another collection of personal pieces from the *New Statesman* covering the past three domestic seasons; the Euro Championship of 2004; and the 2006 World Cup when he unexpectedly became Wayne Rooney's top buddy.

'When a player gets sent off shouldn't we fans get some of our money back?' ponders Davies in one piece. 'I just wish he'd shave his stupid face,' he berates José Mourinho in another. And, gooaaal!, Hunt rumbles Sven early doors: 'He's a spare swede at a veggie gathering. What is the point of him?' he writes two years before England's World Cup debacle.

As ever, his outlook is fiercely that of the fan — disgruntled, bewildered and passionate — wondering what the players do with all that money, all those girls, and why match programmes are 'full of adverts or arse-licks for sponsors.'

And, finally, why did Peter Crouch? Because he saw Darren Bent, of course.



The Arms of the Infinite

by Christopher Barker

ISBN 1-904590-04-7

Christopher Barker is the son of the cult writer Elizabeth Smart (*By Grand Central Station I Sat Down and Wept*) and the notorious poet, George Barker.

The *Arms of the Infinite* takes the reader inside the minds of both parents and, from their first fateful meeting and subsequent elopement, Barker candidly reveals their obsessive, passionate and volatile love affair.

He writes evocatively of his unconventional upbringing with his siblings in a shack in Ireland and, later, a rambling, falling-down house in Essex. Interesting and charismatic figures from the literary and art worlds are regular visitors and the book is full of fascinating cameos and anecdotes.

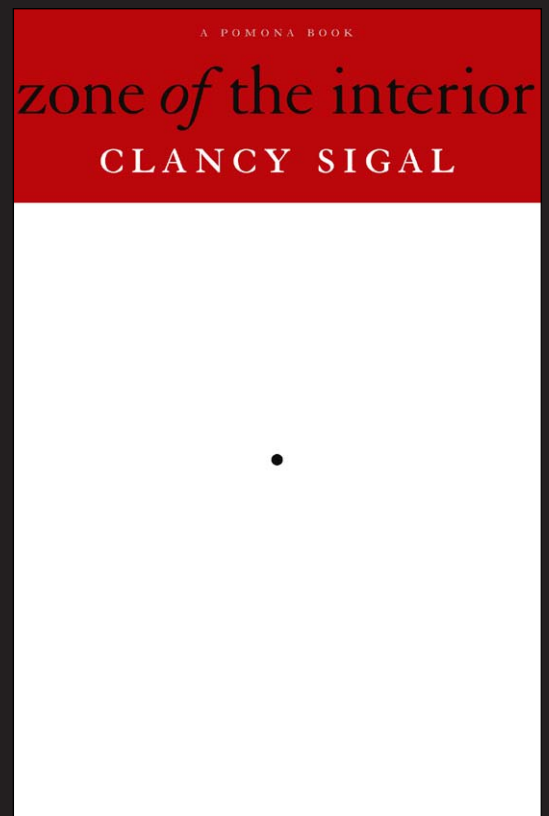
Barker is himself a gifted writer. An early draft of his memoir formed a cover story for the literary magazine, *Granta*.

Zone of the Interior by Clancy Sigal

ISBN 1-904590-10-1

'The book they dared not print', *Zone of the Interior* is a lost classic of zonked-out, high-as-a-kite Sixties literature. It tells the story of Sid Bell, an American political fugitive in London, who falls under the spell of Dr. Willie Last (partly modelled on the radical 'anti-psychiatrist' RD Laing). This unlikely duo feast on LSD, mescaline, psilocybin and psycho-babble, believing that only by self-injecting themselves with schizophrenia will they become true existentialist guerrillas.

Sigal's approach is richly sardonic and anti-establishment, of both right and left, in a jazz-influenced free-form prose, comic and serious, myth-puncturing and elegiac.



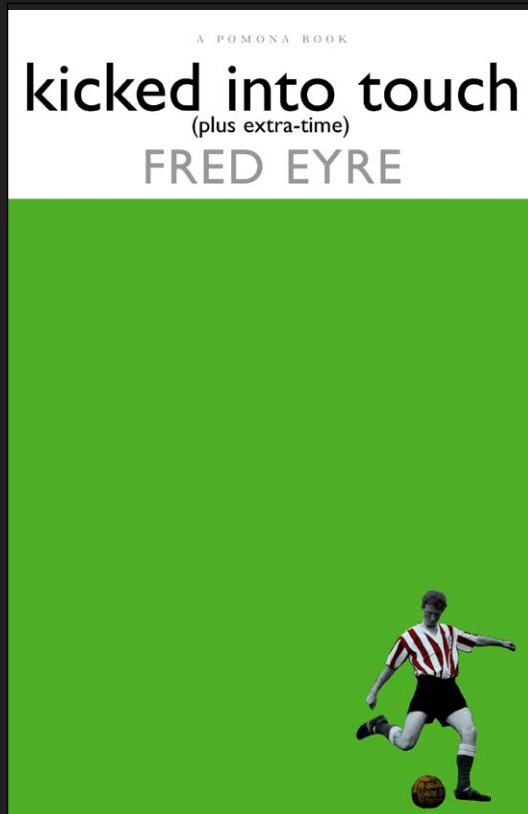
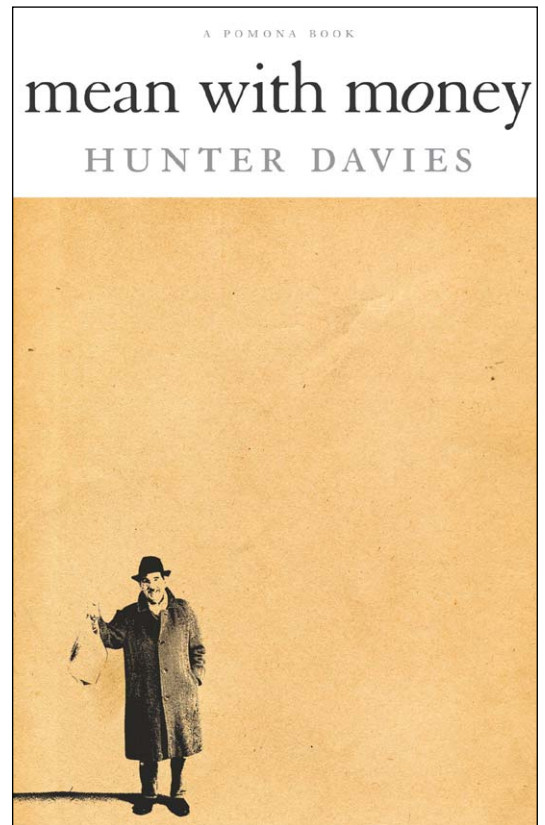
Mean with Money by Hunter Davies

ISBN 1-904590-13-6

At last, a book about money that tells it straight: put it under the bed. All of it. Sure, it makes for easy access to burglars but better than the felons passing themselves off as financial advisors or acting as foot-soldiers for organisations with words like union, mutual, trust, alliance, equitable or assurance in their name.

Mean With Money, inspired by Davies' well-loved column in *The Sunday Times*, is wilfully short on practical advice but offers instead good humour and much-needed empathy as we face the corporate horror of high-handed and indifferent financial institutions.

Davies also looks at ingenious ways to save money (cut your own hair, for starters) and what to do with it when it arrives. Along the way, he reveals details of his regular visits to McDonald's (it's free to use their toilets), the eccentric old ladies who staff his local Oxfam shop and the swim that cost him £333. Go get 'em Hunt.



Kicked Into Touch (plus extra-time)

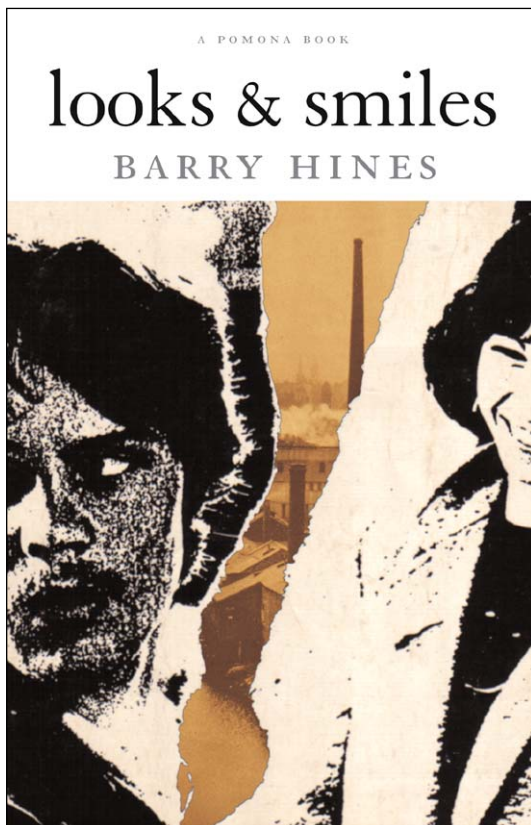
by Fred Eyre

ISBN 1-904590-12-8

Fred Eyre's sporting life began full of promise when he became Manchester City's first ever apprentice. He never made their first team. In fact, he seldom made anyone's first team. Injuries played a part but limited talent was the greater curse.

As he plummeted down the leagues he had something few footballers possess: a stud-sharp memory and an ability to write humorously about the sport he loves.

Originally published in 1981, *Kicked Into Touch* has become an enigma — selling more than a million copies yet still retaining cult status within the sport and among fans. This new version has been completely revised, extended and updated with a new set of photographs included.



Looks & Smiles by Barry Hines

ISBN 1-904590-09-8

Looks and Smiles is a lost bulletin from the early-Eighties when the sun felt to have set permanently on hope and optimism. Unemployment was rampant, especially in the north where traditional industries were laid waste by Margaret Thatcher and her government.

Set amid this gloom, *Looks and Smiles* is an under-stated love affair between unemployed school-leaver Mick, and Karen who works in a town centre shoe shop. They both want little more from life than a decent chance.

The book was originally published in 1981 and later made into a film by Ken Loach.

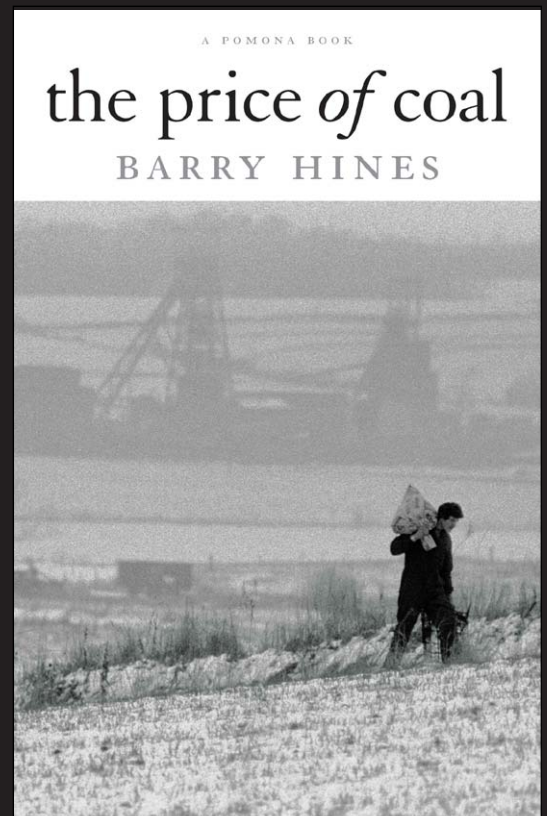
The Price of Coal by Barry Hines

ISBN 1-904590-08-X

Barry Hines is a master craftsman. While he is rightly celebrated for his classic, *A Kestrel for a Knave* (later filmed as *Kes*), his other work is equally powerful. *The Price of Coal* is an uncompromising depiction of life at a colliery where beer, snooker, cricket and time spent on the allotment is the only respite from clawing coal from the earth.

Hines proves himself an exemplary storyteller with a discerning eye for detail and when bolder, gaudier writing is long forgotten, his stays in the mind and nourishes it.

He has written a new foreword to the original text which was first published in 1979 and later adapted for television as two linked plays, directed by Ken Loach in the acclaimed *Play for Today* series.



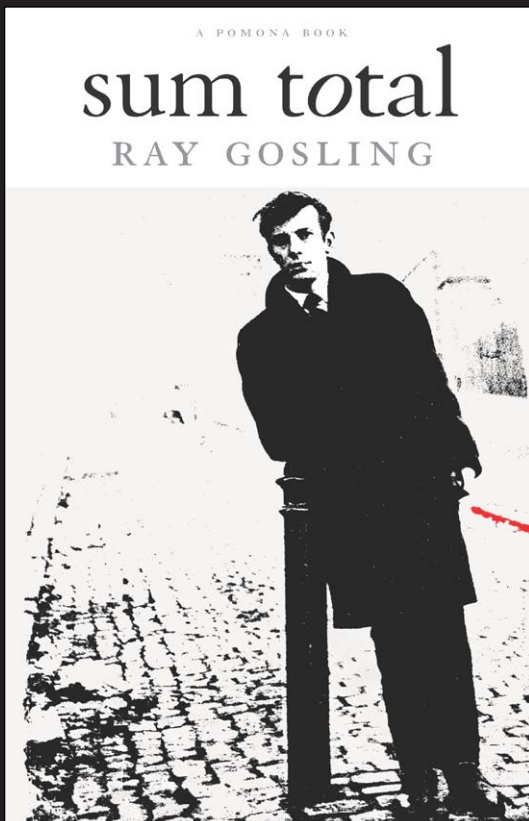
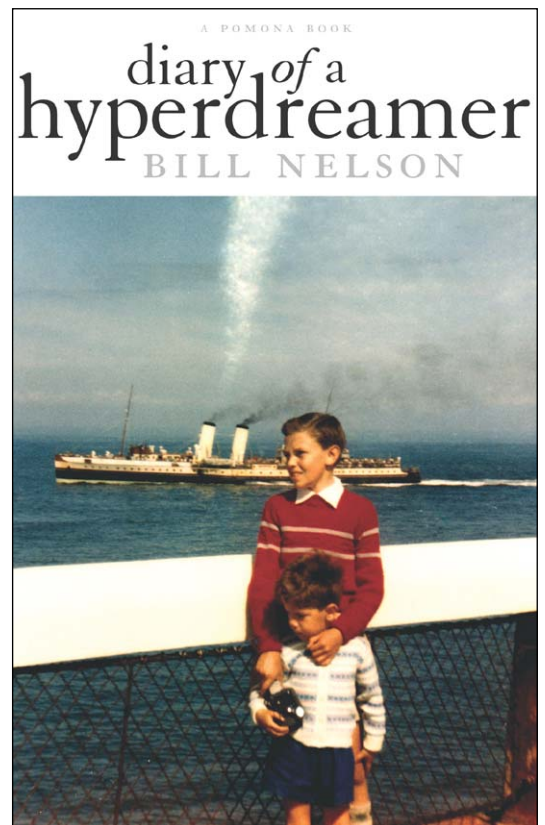
Diary of a Hyperdreamer by Bill Nelson

ISBN 1-904590-06-3

Bill Nelson is one of our most respected creative forces. He came to prominence in the Seventies with Be Bop Deluxe and later Red Noise. He has collaborated with like-minds such as Yellow Magic Orchestra, David Sylvian, Harold Budd and Roger Eno and still releases a prolific amount of new music.

Diary of a Hyperdreamer is his day-by-day journal in which he ponders on life, art and the nation. His unique perspective is fed by a career creating and producing music, photography, painting and video.

Written from his home in a hamlet in north Yorkshire, he also includes engaging details of his family life, regular musings on mortality, along with reflections on his childhood and former life as a globe-trotting 'pop star.'

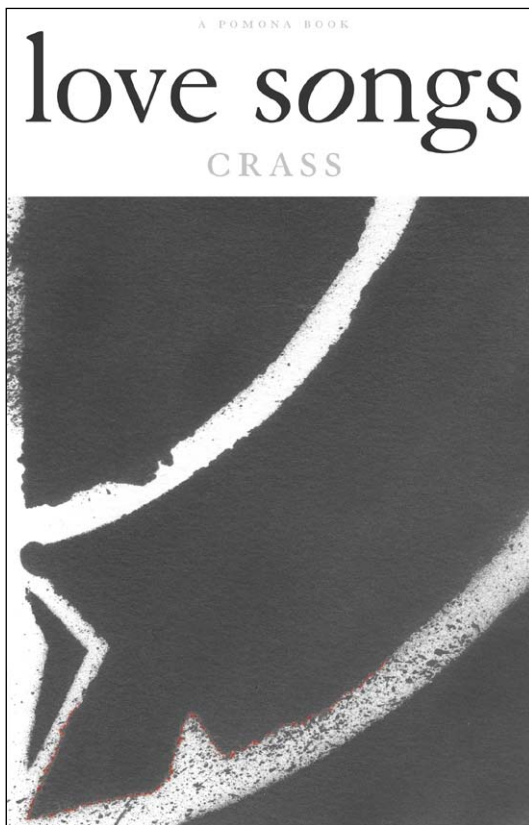


Sum Total by Ray Gosling

ISBN 1-904590-05-5

Sum Total is a lost masterpiece of British literature, a restless, hungry riposte to America's finest Beat writers.

Written in 1961 when he was just 21, Gosling's itchy 'sort of' autobiography is a startlingly original take on the England of the early Sixties: rock 'n' roll, trains, dead-end jobs, drizzle, hitchhiking, jukebox cafés, trudging through hometown streets. All the time he remains gloriously indulgent, disillusioned yet hopeful, tired but desperate for every new day.



Love Songs by Crass

ISBN 1-904590-03-9

Crass: a rural collective based in Essex, formed in 1977 of a diverse and eclectic group of individuals who operated for several years using music, art, literature and film as vehicles to share information and ideas.

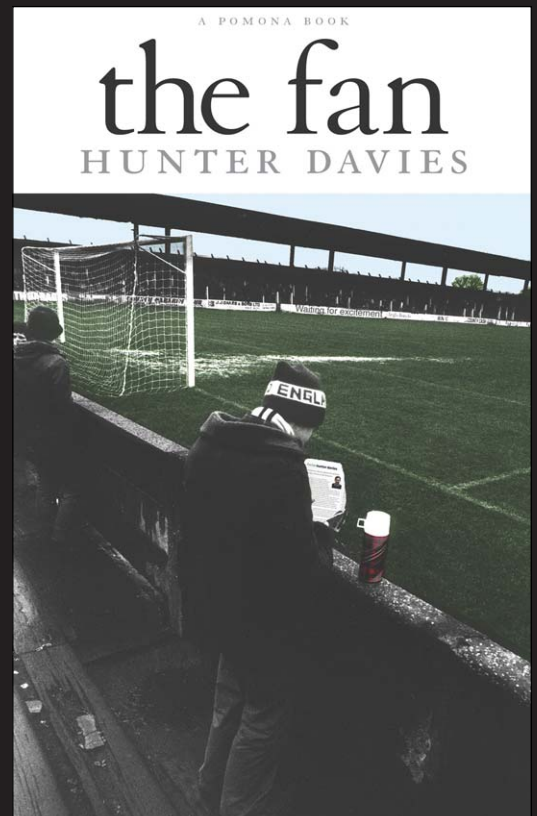
They also wanted to change the world. This is a collection of words spanning those seven short years; a book of shock slogans and mindless token tantrums. An anthology of passionate love songs that sought to inspire a generation, and succeeded.

The Fan by Hunter Davies

ISBN 1-904590-02-0

Hunter Davies is one of Britain's most acclaimed writers and journalists. He has written over 30 books, among them modern classics, *The Beatles* and *A Walk Around The Lakes*. *The Glory Game*, published in 1972, is a benchmark work on football and is still in print today.

The Fan is a collection of very personal, unusual pieces about his life as a supporter. Along the way, he also lets us into his home life, in London and the Lake District, his family, his work, his tortoise, his poorly knee (caused by too much Sunday football).



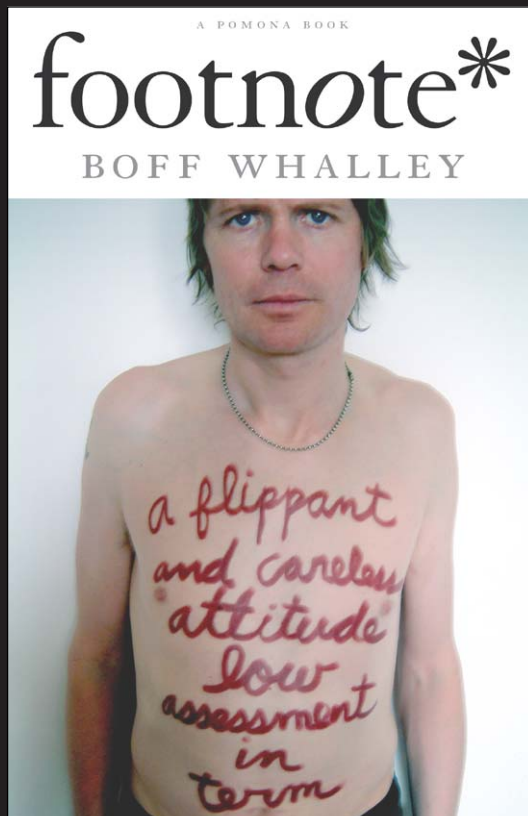
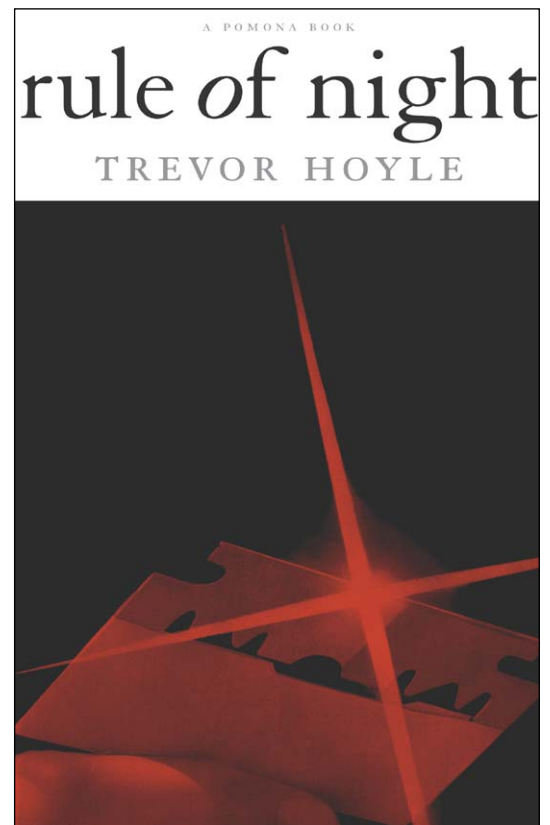
Rule of Night by Trevor Hoyle

ISBN 1-904590-01-2

If the Sixties were swinging, the Seventies were the hangover — darker, nastier, uglier — especially if you lived on a council estate in the north of England.

Rule of Night was first published in 1975 and has since become a cult classic. It pre-dates the vogue for ‘hard men’ and ‘football hoolie’ books by 25 years. It is, however, much more than this. Trevor Hoyle creates a chillingly detailed world, where teenagers prowl rainy fluorescent-lit streets dressed as their *Clockwork Orange* anti-heroes. The backdrop is provided by Ford Cortinas, Players No.6, the factory, the relentless struggle to maintain hope.

Hoyle, who has been published by John Calder (home to Samuel Beckett and William S. Burroughs), has added a fascinating afterword to his original book which has been out of print and highly sought-after for many years.



Footnote* by Boff Whalley

ISBN 1-904590-00-4

*Footnote** is clever, funny and irreverent—a story about a boy from the redbrick clichés of smalltown England reconciling Mormonism and punk rock, exemplary courtesy and political insurrection.

He finds a guitar, anarchism and art terrorism and, after years (and years and years) of earnest, determined, honest-to-goodness slogging, his pop group† makes it big; that's BIG with a megaphone actually. They write a song that has the whole world singing and, funnily enough, it's an admirable summary of a life well lived—about getting knocked down and getting back up again.

Meanwhile, there's a whole world still happening: authentic lives carefully drawn, emotional but not sentimental and always with a writer's eye for detail. *Footnote* is not another plodding rock memoir but a compassionate, critical and sometimes cynical account of a life steeped in pop culture, lower division football and putting the world to rights.

* See page 293 of Boff Whalley's book.

† Boff Whalley is a member of Chumbawamba.

Pomoma *backlist*

P001	Footnote*	Boff Whalley	8.99
P002	Rule of Night	Trevor Hoyle	8.99
P003	The Fan	Hunter Davies	SOLD OUT
P004	Love Songs	Crass	9.99
P005	Sum Total	Ray Gosling	9.99
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P007	The Price of Coal	Barry Hines	9.99
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P011	Zone of the Interior	Clancy Sigal	9.99
P012	The Arms of the Infinite	Christopher Barker	9.99
P013	The Second Half	Hunter Davies	9.99
P014	Believe in the Sign	Mark Hodgkinson	9.99

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