

Six Poets: Hardy To Larkin: An Anthology By Alan Bennett

'Thinking Betty was in the bath Graham was watching a late-night programme on Channel 4 called Footballers with Their Shirts Off when she unexpectedly came in on the trail of the hairdryer. "I didn't know you were interested in football," said Betty.' No one must ever find out that Graham is 'not the marrying sort'. Certainly not his wife, or his mother. As sex, blackmail and fanatical tidiness take over the West Yorkshire parish of Alwoodley, an unlikely caper unfolds.

From Alan Bennett, the author of *The Madness of King George*, come two stories about the strange nature of possessions...or the lack of them. In the nationally bestselling novel *The Clothes They Stood Up In*, the staid Ransomes return from the opera to find their Regent’s Park flat stripped bare--right down to the toilet-paper roll. Free of all their earthly belongings, the couple faces a perplexing question: Who are they without the things they've spent a lifetime accumulating? Suddenly a world of unlimited, frightening possibility opens up before them. In “*The Lady in the Van*,” which *The Village Voice* called “one of the finest bursts of comic writing the twentieth century has produced,” Bennett recounts the strange life of Miss Shepherd, a London eccentric who parked her van (overstuffed with decades’ worth of old clothes, oozing batteries, and kitchen utensils still in their original packaging) in the author’s driveway for more than fifteen years. A mesmerizing portrait of an outsider with an acquisitive taste and an indomitable spirit, this biographical essay is drawn with equal parts fascination and compassion.

A beautiful collectable box set, published to celebrate the 80th birthday of Alan Bennett, May 2014.

Alan Bennett, with his unique style, recalls his childhood in this sequence of tales that are both funny and touching. *Hampered*, as he sees it, by a family that never manages to be quite like others, he recounts his early years in Leeds. Bennett relives family crises, early pieties and the lost tradition of musical evenings around the piano, with the wry observation and ironic understatement that has earned him a place in the forefront of contemporary writing.

The Complete Talking Heads

A Life Like Other People's

Two Plays about Guy Burgess and Anthony Blunt ; & Talking Heads : Six Monologues

People

Six Poets

Two Besides

"Alan Bennett's selection of English verse by his favourite poets, accompanied by his own enlivening commentary." --Publisher's description.

A richly enjoyable play by one of the nation's finest writers.

A collection of comic sketches.

The Old Crowd A Private Function Prick Up Your Ears 102 Boulevard Haussmann The Madness of King George Starring characters as diverse as George III, Marcel Proust, Joe Orton, and a pig called Betty, Alan Bennett's masterful work for the screen gives as much enjoyment in the reading as it did in the viewing. This classic collection contains a new essay by Alan Bennett, besides the original introductions to A Private Function, Prick Up Your Ears and The Madness of King George. Two companion volumes of Alan Bennett's TV plays are published as Me, I'm Afraid of Virginia Woolf and Rolling Home.

Plays One

The Complete Beyond the Fringe

The Laying On of Hands

A Monologue from "Talking Heads

What W. H. Auden Can Do for You

An unruly bunch of bright, funny sixth-form boys in pursuit of sex, sport and a place at university. A maverick English teacher at odds with the young and shrewd supply teacher. A headmaster obsessed with results; a history teacher who thinks he's a fool. In Alan Bennett's new play, staff room rivalry and the anarchy of adolescence provoke insistent questions about history and how you teach it; about education and its purpose. The History Boys premiered at the National in May 2004. 'Nothing could diminish the incendiary achievement of this subtle, deep-wrought and immensely funny play about the value and meaning of education . In short, a superb, life-enhancing play.' *Guardian*

The Shielding of Mrs ForbesGraham Forbes is a disappointment to his mother, who thinks that if he must have a wife, he should have done better. Though her own husband isn't all that satisfactory either. Still, this is Alan Bennett, so what is happening in the bedroom (and in lots of other places too) is altogether more startling, perhaps shocking, and ultimately more true to people's predilections.The Greening of Mrs DonaldsonMrs Donaldson is a conventional middle-class woman beached on the shores of widowhood after a marriage that had been much like many others: happy to begin with, then satisfactory and finally dull. But when she decides to take in two lodgers, her mundane life becomes much more stimulating...

A British Labour M.P., ten years into his second marriage, feels tethered in a time of change. He is distrustful on the one hand of the "mawkish mentality" of the young and, on the other, of the encroaching motorway life of the middle aged who can look forward to nothing more than the fairly imminent end of a not so very interesting road. "The play is a small jewel of bewilderment and regret." - *London Sunday Times*

1956: a defining year that heralded the modern era.Britain and France occupied Suez, and the Soviet Union tanks rolled into Hungary. Nikita Khrushchev's 'secret speech' exposed the crimes of Stalin, and the Royal Court Theatre unveiled John Osborne's *Look Back in Anger*. Rock 'n' roll music was replacing the gentle pop songs of Mum and Dad’s generation, and it was the first full year of independent television.As post-war assumptions were shattered, the upper middle class was shaken and the communist left was shocked, radical new ideas about sex, skiffle and socialism emerged, and attitudes shifted on an unprecedented scale - precipitated by the decline of Attlee's Britain and the first intimations of Thatcher's.From politics and conflict to sport and entertainment, this extraordinary book transports us back in time on a whirlwind journey through the history, headlines and happenings of this most momentous of years, vividly capturing the revolutionary spirit of 1956 - the year that changed Britain.

A Novella

A Woman of No Importance

Alan Bennett 3-Pack

Two Unseemly Stories

The Habit of Art

The History Boys

The inimitable Alan Bennett selects and comments upon six favorite poets and the pleasures of their works In this candid, thoroughly engaging book, Alan Bennett creates a unique anthology of works by six well-loved poets. Freely admitting his own youthful bafflement with poetry, Bennett reassures us that the poets and poems in this volume are not only accessible but also highly enjoyable. He then proceeds to prove irresistibly that this is so. Bennett selects more than seventy poems by Thomas Hardy, A. E. Housman, John Betjeman, W. H. Auden, Louis MacNeice, and Philip Larkin. He peppers his discussion of these writers and their verse with anecdotes, shrewd appraisal, and telling biographical detail: Hardy lyrically recalls his first wife, Emma, in his poetry, although he treated her shabbily in real life. The fabled Auden was a formidable and off-putting figure at the lectern. Larkin, hoping to subvert snooping biographers, ordered personal papers shredded upon his death. Simultaneously profound and entertaining, Bennett’s book is a paean to poetry and its creators, made all the more enjoyable for being told in his own particular voice. Its creators, made all the more enjoyable for being told in his own particular voice.

At work Peggy has carved herself a comfortable niche. Once in hospital, she loses no time in establishing herself as Queen Bee, taking on several responsibilities. Persistently cheerful, blind to the feelings of others and, at heart, terribly lonely, Peggy is at once a richly comic and desperately moving creation, providing a rewarding challenge for a mature actress.

A collection of three stories dealing with human behavior and motivations includes "Father! Father! Burning Bright," "Miss Fozzard Finds Her Feet," and the title story, a satirical account of a memorial service for a special masseur.

Six PoetsHardy to Larkin: An AnthologyYale University Press

The Clothes They Stood Up In and The Lady and the Van

Telling Tales

1956

Red Baron's Last Flight

Stories

A Private Function

The box contains: *The Clothes They Stood Up In*, the story of an elderly couple who have had everything they own stolen. *The Lady in the Van*, a play about a homeless old lady, Miss Shepherd, who lived in a car in Bennett’s driveway for 15 years. *Father! Father! Burning Bright*, about Midgeley and his stifling relationship with his father.

The 'Complete Talking Heads' contains Alan Bennetts first series of six 'Talking Heads' monologues, written for BBC television in 1987, together with his eagerly awaited second series, written in 1998, which is certain to be as successful as the first. At Bennetts request the collection also includes *A Woman Of No Importance*, originally published in 'Objects Of Affection', making 13 stories in all. Alan Bennett is one of Britains best-loved and most highly acclaimed writers. As part of the 1960s revue, *'Beyond The Fringe'*, he helped to kick-start the English satire revolution, and has since remained one of our leading dramatists, most recently with his National Theatre adaptation of Kenneth Grahames 'The Wind In The Willows'.

When facing a moral dilemma, Isabel Dalhousie--Edinburgh philosopher, amateur detective, and title character of a series of novels by best-selling author Alexander McCall Smith--often refers to the great twentieth-century poet W. H. Auden. This is no accident: McCall Smith has long been fascinated by Auden. Indeed, the novelist, best known for his No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency series, calls the poet not only the greatest literary discovery of his life but also the best of guides on how to live. In this book, McCall Smith has written a charming personal account about what Auden has done for him--and what he just might do for you. Part self-portrait, part literary appreciation, the book tells how McCall Smith first came across the poet's work in the 1970s, while teaching law in Belfast, a violently divided city where Auden's "September 1, 1939," a poem about the outbreak of World War II, strongly resonated. McCall Smith goes on to reveal how his life has related to and been inspired by other Auden poems ever since. For example, he describes how he has found an invaluable reflection on life's transience in "As I Walked Out One Evening," while "The More Loving One" has provided an instructive meditation on unrequited love. McCall Smith shows how Auden can speak to us throughout life, suggesting how, despite difficulties and change, we can celebrate understanding, acceptance, and love for others. An enchanting story about how art can help us live, this book will appeal to McCall Smith's fans and anyone curious about Auden.

Funny, touching and real, this second collection of Alan Bennett’s classic work for television from the late 1970s and early 1980s is full of fine observations of life as it is lived. Often imitated but never equalled, Bennett’s work is a masterclass in how to write for the small screen and gives as much enjoyment in the reading as it did in the viewing. The television plays included in this volume are *Our Winnie*, *All Day on the Sands*, *One Fine Day*, *Marks*, *Say Something Happened*, *Rolling Home* and *Intensive Care*. This volume also contains a new general introduction by Alan Bennett. A companion volume of Alan Bennett's work from the 1970s is published as *Me, I'm Afraid of Virginia Woolf*.

Birthday Letters

The Year That Changed Britain

The Oxford Book of Twentieth-century English Verse

Covid Diaries

A Box of Alan Bennett

One Fine Day, All Day on the Sands, Our Winnie, Rolling Home

A collection of four Alan Bennett plays, with an introduction by the author which describes the background to their writing and performance.

A poignant family memoir offering a portrait of his parents' marriage and recalling his Leeds childhood, Christmases with Grandma Peel, and the lives, loves and deaths of his unforgettable aunties Kathleen and Myra.

The mysterious events of April 21, 1918, the day the legendary Red Baron met his end, have kept the world captivated for decades. There have been many theories, articles and books concerning exactly what took place but all previous accounts have been overshadowed by this groundbreaking book. Here is the definitive answer to one of history’s most compelling mysteries. Taking you straight to the site of Richthofen’s final crash, leading aviation historian Norman Franks and pilot Alan Bennett dissect the evidence and expose what only eyewitnesses could see, complimented by a host of forensic and historical facts that illustrate in detail what actually occurred, when and how.

When a rare medical condition makes King George III act in an increasingly irrational manner, the Prince of Wales is determined to become Regent

Collected Untold Stories. Alan Bennett

Smut

Rolling Home

The Old Country

Alan Bennett Children's Library

Hymn

Obligated to borrow a book when her corgis stray into a mobile library, the Queen discovers a passion for reading, setting the palace upon its head and causing the royal head of Great Britain to question her role in the monarchy.

'We have, in the nick of time, a Play of the Year: Alan Bennett's *The Lady in the Van* is a wonderfully bittersweet comic diary of the years in which a lethally doty and very smelly old bat parked her unroadworthy vehicle in Bennett's Camden garden, thereby providing him with a roughly equal amount of journalistic copy and guilty landlordly irritation. Sheridan Morley, *Spectator*

The nature and scope of English poetry is illuminated in this collection of works by twentieth-century poets including Hardy, Yeats, Lawrence, Eliot, and Auden

A collection of poetry addressed to Hughes's late wife, poet Sylvia Plath, reexamines the psychological breakdown that led to both some of her greatest poems and to her untimely death. Reprint.

A Comedy

Hardy to Larkin : an Anthology

The Shielding of Mrs Forbes

Enjoy

Talking Heads

Alan Bennett Box Set

Alan Bennett reads all four parts of his highly-acclaimed 'Untold Stories.' He recounts stories about his family life and his childhood and schooldays, and gives his views on such topics as nature, religion, arts, and the class system.

Dad thinks everything will be better when the family moves. The social worker who calls to observe their lives turns out to be absent son Terry, idolized by Mam, in drag. Secretary daughter Linda, in reality a prostitute, breezes in, shattering Dad's illusions. The house is dismantled around them to be rebuilt in a park preserving the ideals of family life. Mam will be in a showcase whilst Dad is carted off to the geriatric ward.

Alan Bennett's first play since the runaway international success of *The History Boys*.

The Uncommon Reader

Single Spies

A Revue

Getting on

House Arrest

Kafka's Dick