

(TECHNOLOGY)



STYLIST ROADTESTS THE NEW BLACKBERRY

Last week, BlackBerry launched a smartphone to compete with Apple and Samsung. *Stylist's* Debbie McQuoid and Kitty McGee go head-to-head on three of the Z10's features

THE HUB

DEBBIE: It puts my texts, emails and social media in one place. I'm checking Facebook 10 times thinking it's a text. I hate it.

KITTY: This summary means I can stay on top of my social life. Brilliant.

PHOTOS

DEBBIE: The built-in photo editing function makes me look like a more talented photographer than I am.

KITTY: The camera's speed is great for fashion shows. The face capture is genius.

100% TOUCH SCREEN

DEBBIE: Having to thumb through my previous three functions, all I want is to press a 'home' button.

KITTY: The movement is really intuitive so it feels natural quite quickly.

VERDICT

It's a long-overdue and excellent upgrade for BlackBerry users, but may give iPhone and Android users teething issues.

The BlackBerry Z10 is out now. Prices vary

(BOOKS)

MEMOIRS GET A VERY MODERN MAKEOVER

The non-fiction genre has moved on in 2013. Welcome to memoirs 2.0

Could the word 'memoir' be any more off-putting? It seems to conjure either the ghost-written celebrity booky wooks of vaguely interesting anecdotes or the bleakest accounts of childhood misery. Both of which are usually bought in a three-for-two panic at the airport.

Thankfully, the age of the misery memoir has passed and a brilliant new form of dynamic and intelligent memoirs is rising from, erm, *Angela's Ashes*. Leapfrogging conventions, the revamped genre encompasses everything from stalker's emails and fictional non-fiction to begrudging gonzo life-analysis. Here, we've handpicked 2013's top seven.



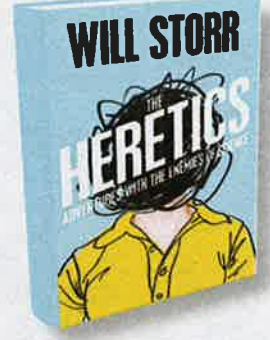
THE KAFKAESQUE HORROR

Brain On Fire by Susannah Calahan, out now (£16.99, Particular) If you're a 24-year-old go-getting journalist, and you start to act oddly, few people bat an eyelid. Even doctors. Susannah writes a clear-eyed account from the other side of her descent into madness and the diagnosis of a condition anyone could have. Terrifyingly readable.



THE UNLIKELY-STAR STORY

Harley Loco by Rayya Elias, out 9 May (£12.99, Bloomsbury) Elias remains sympathetic as she tramples over her girlfriends, family and herself during the drug-addled chaos of Eighties New York. Detailing her multiple lives from hyped pop star and hairdresser to street hustler and inmate, this book is to be gulped whole.



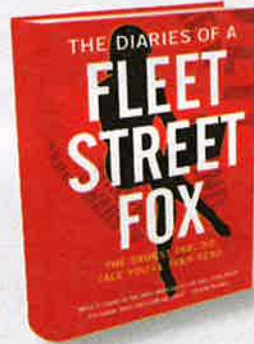
THE REPORTAGE-MEMOIR

The Heretics by Will Storr, out now (£16.99, Picador) Storr takes his personal experiences on a Louis-Theroux type ride with him – acid-testing his core personality against past-life regressionists, neo-Nazis and other oddballs. Storr opens up his life as another source of irrationality, leading the reader to question their own core beliefs.



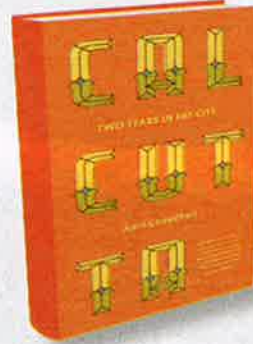
THE TERROR TALE

Give Me Everything You Have: On Being Stalked by James Lasdun, out now (£16.99, Jonathan Cape) "I think the holocaust was f*cking funny" is an awful thing to land in anyone's inbox. But when a Jewish professor receives this from a student – followed by passionate love letters and death threats – it's the beginning of a terrifying ordeal. As personal as a memoir can get.



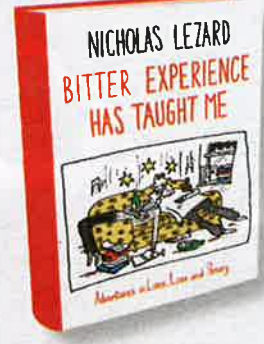
THE TABLOID EXPOSÉ

The Diaries Of A Fleet Street Fox, out now (£8.99, Constable) A day-by-day account of Fleet Street Fox's (recently outed as the *Daily Mirror's* Susan Boniface) painful divorce from tabloid exec 'Tw*tface'. You will audibly gasp at the audacity of her ex, from wanting to keep the marital bed to asking that she help book a holiday with his mistress... fully earning his nickname.



THE MEMOIR-TRAVELOGUE

Calcutta by Amit Chaudhuri, out now (£14.99, Union) What's a memoir when you don't have memories? Amit Chaudhuri brings his literary imagination to create his childhood home from scratch. Deconstructing the idea of memoir as he goes, Chaudhuri picks up the exploration of unreliable memory where Proust and Nabokov left off.



THE COMEDY-MISERY MEMOIR

Bitter Experience Has Taught Me by Nicholas Lezard, out 4 July (£9.99, Faber & Faber) Most columnists are slick self-deprecators; Lezard is different. His life is a slow-motion car crash. He's not playing it for laughs but his journey from happy, solvent middle-class father to broke, broken-spirited student hovel dweller is a laugh riot.