



WILDTRACK

Bernard Cornwell (page 9)

Though he has emerged from the Falklands War with a VC, Nick Sandman doesn't feel much like a hero. His wife has left him, he has no job to go to, and no money. What's more, his injuries have left him barely able to walk. But Nick has a dream: to sail his yacht *Sycorax* round the world. And it's a dream that he's determined to fulfil, even when he finds that someone has wrecked the boat he loves so much. As he sets about repairing her, he unwittingly enters a deadly feud between two rich and powerful men, the one accused of murder, the other obsessed with revenge.

A fine thriller, full of suspense, which combines the salty tang of the sea with a bittersweet touch of romance.



WINNER

Maureen O'Donoghue (page 163)

Irish gypsy girl Macha Sheridan has a magic way with horses: a talent for buying, breeding and racing them which she learned at her father's knee. Cast out by her own people at the age of fourteen, with only an old wagon and a few unpromising nags, she sets off on a colourful journey that takes her from Irish horse fairs to the grandeur of Epsom, Goodwood and Ascot; from disgrace and isolation to the elegant houses and high society occasions of the Edwardian era. But just as success seems finally to be within Macha's grasp, her gypsy origins threaten to betray her . . .

Winner is a saga of struggle and passion, rich in contrast, which lingers long in the memory.



THE ENGLISH EAGLES

Nigel Slater (page 307)

Robin Woodford has a past that he wants to forget, and in an effort to find a new life he has taken a new identity and a quiet teaching job in the Lake District. It's a peaceful but unexciting existence—until he spots a pair of golden eagles nesting nearby. Robin is fascinated by the birds, and passionately concerned that they should breed in safety, especially when a local farmer announces they are a threat to his sheep, and is set on their destruction. Together with pretty Jenny Stott, the assistant matron at the school, Robin starts a determined crusade to protect the eagles.

This moving novel about one man's search for peace of mind is also a tribute to the most majestic of birds.



TRESPASS

Phillip Finch (page 403)

The three desk-bound executives who join the expedition to Montana's Beartooth Mountains expect to be challenged. They all anticipate the blistered feet, aching muscles and moments of paralysing fear. What they don't expect is the changes in themselves, and in the other members of the group. For high in the mountains a man is always close to the brink, close to disaster—and to the truth about himself. As the breathtaking scenery of the Beartooths grows ever more treacherous, character flaws begin to prove fatal—and the survival of the little group hangs precariously in the balance.

A great adventure story and a haunting tale of self-discovery.