Lovereading.co.uk
Helping you choose your next book

You loved your last book...but what are you going to read next?

Using our unique guidance tools, Love**reading** will help you find new books to keep you inspired and entertained.

Opening Extract from...

Weird Things Customers Say in Bookshops

Written by Jen Campbell

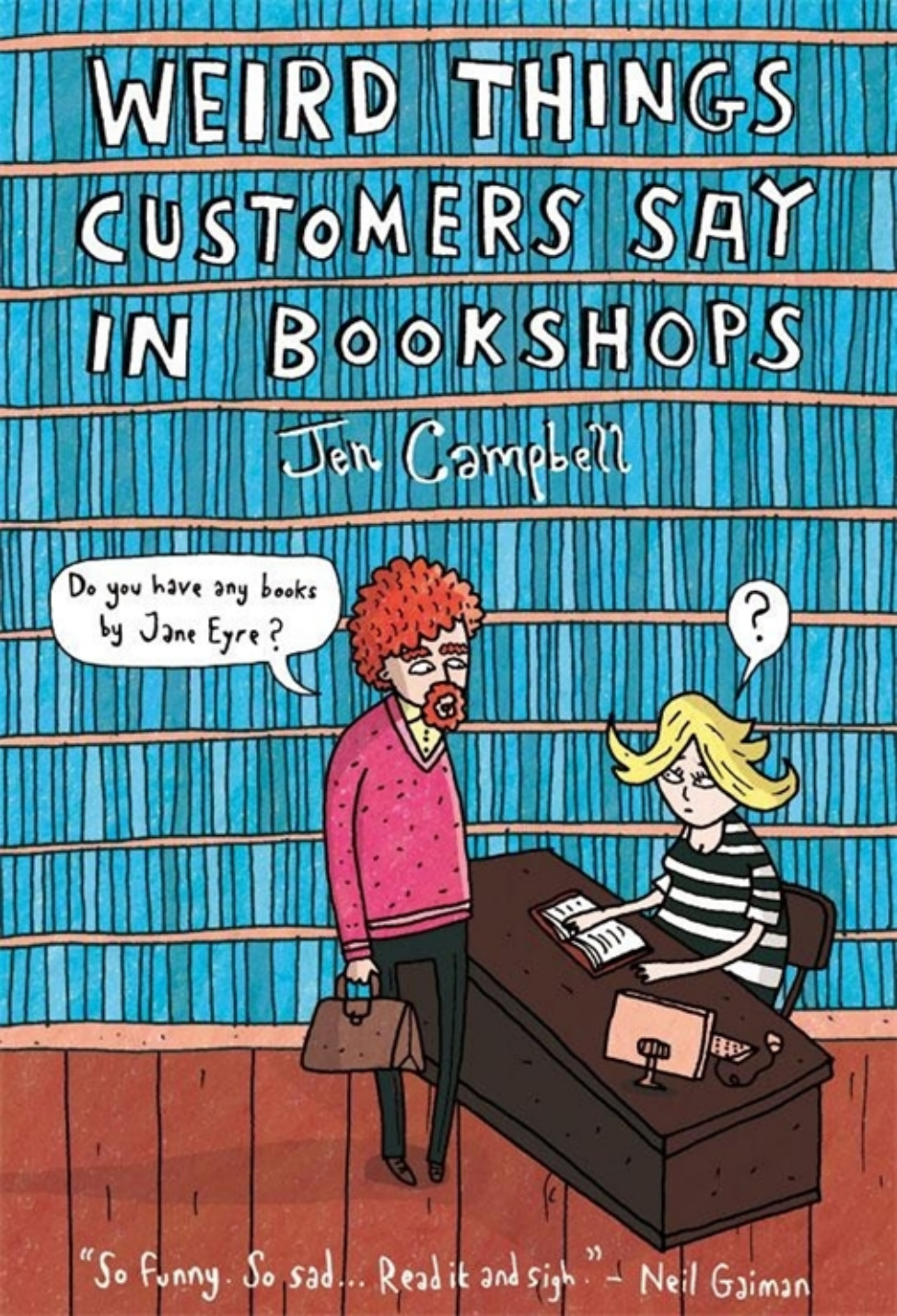
Published by Constable

All text is copyright © of the author

This Opening Extract is exclusive to Love**reading**.
Please print off and read at your leisure.

WEIRD THINGS CUSTOMERS SAY IN BOOKSHOPS

Jen Campbell



"So funny. So sad... Read it and sigh." – Neil Gaiman

WEIRD THINGS CUSTOMERS SAY IN BOOKSHOPS

Jen Campbell

CONSTABLE

Constable & Robinson Ltd
55-56 Russell Square
London WC1B 4HP

This edition published by Constable,
an imprint of Constable & Robinson Ltd 2012

Copyright © Jen Campbell 2012

Illustrations copyright © The Brothers McLeod 2012

All rights reserved. This book is sold subject to the condition
that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold,
hired out or otherwise circulated in any form of binding or cover
other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition
including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

A copy of the British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data
is available from the British Library

ISBN-13: 978-1-78033-483-7

Printed and bound in the European Union

1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

For bookshops and heroic booksellers everywhere
with thanks to our loyal customers,
without whom we wouldn't be selling books
&
to all the people within these pages
who've kept me on my toes,
made me smile and scared
the absolute hell out of me – thank *you*.

CONTENTS

Tales From the Edinburgh Bookshop
1

Tales From Ripping Yarns
33

Weird Things Customers Say in *Other* Bookshops
95

TALES FROM

The Edinburgh Bookshop



The Edinburgh Bookshop [formerly The Children's Bookshop], Bruntsfield Place, Edinburgh, is an independent bookshop owned by Vanessa and Malcolm Robertson, also owners of Fidra Books publishing company. Their bookshop dog is Teaga, a Leonberger, who somewhat resembles Nana from Peter Pan.

www.edinburghbookshop.com.

CUSTOMER: I read a book in the sixties. I don't remember the author, or the title. But it was green, and it made me laugh. Do you know which one I mean?

♦

CUSTOMER: Hi, I'd like to return this book, please.
BOOKSELLER: Certainly. Do you have the receipt?
CUSTOMER: Here.
BOOKSELLER: Erm, you bought this book at Waterstone's.
CUSTOMER: Yes.
BOOKSELLER: . . . we're not Waterstone's.
CUSTOMER: But you're a bookshop.
BOOKSELLER: Yes, but we're not Waterstone's.
CUSTOMER: You're all part of the same chain.
BOOKSELLER: No, sorry, we're an independent bookshop.
CUSTOMER: . . .
BOOKSELLER: Put it this way, you wouldn't buy clothes in H&M and take them back to Zara, would you?
CUSTOMER: Well, no, because they're different shops.
BOOKSELLER: Exactly.
CUSTOMER: . . . I'd like to speak to your manager.



CUSTOMER: My children are just climbing your bookshelves. That's ok, isn't it? They won't topple over, will they?

CUSTOMER: It makes me sad that grown up books don't have pictures in them. You're brought up with them when you're younger, and then suddenly they're all taken away.
BOOKSELLER: . . . Yes. It's a cruel world.

♦

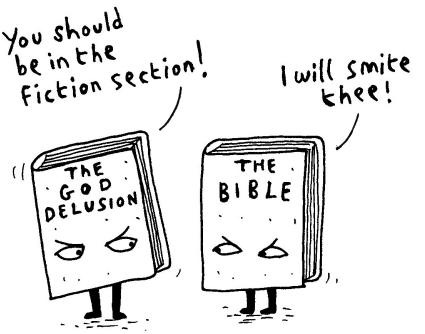
CUSTOMER: Do you have any books by Jane Eyre?

♦

CUSTOMER: Hi, I just wanted to ask: did Anne Frank ever write a sequel?
BOOKSELLER: ……..
CUSTOMER: I really enjoyed her first book.
BOOKSELLER: Her diary?
CUSTOMER: Yes, the diary.
BOOKSELLER: Her diary wasn't fictional.
CUSTOMER: Really?
BOOKSELLER: Yes... She really dies at the end – that's why the diary finishes. She was taken to a concentration camp.
CUSTOMER: Oh... that's terrible.
BOOKSELLER: Yes, it was awful -
CUSTOMER: I mean, it's such a shame, you know? She was *such* a good writer.

CUSTOMER: Do you have any crime books involving speeding fines?

♦



CUSTOMER *(to her friend)*: What's this *literary criticism* section? Is it for books that complain about other books?

♦

CUSTOMER: Do you have a copy of *Nineteen Eighty Six*?
BOOKSELLER: *Nineteen Eighty Six*?
CUSTOMER: Yeah, Orwell.
BOOKSELLER: Oh – *Nineteen Eighty Four.*
CUSTOMER: No, I'm sure it's *Nineteen Eighty Six*; I've always remembered it because it's the year I was born.
BOOKSELLER: . . .

WOMAN: Hi, where are your copies of *Breaking Dawn*? I can't see any on the shelf.
BOOKSELLER: Sorry, I think we've sold out of the *Twilight* books; we're waiting on more.
WOMAN: What?
BOOKSELLER: We should have some more in tomorrow.
WOMAN: But I need a copy now. I finished the third one last night.
BOOKSELLER: I'm sorry, I can't help you.
WOMAN: No, you don't understand, I've taken the whole day off work to read it.
BOOKSELLER: Erm . . .
WOMAN: I NEED TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENS! NOW!
BOOKSELLER: Erm . . .
WOMAN: Can you call your wholesaler and see if they can deliver this afternoon?
BOOKSELLER: They only—
WOMAN: And then I can wait here for them.
BOOKSELLER: I'm sorry, they only deliver in the morning.
WOMAN: BUT WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO NOW?
BOOKSELLER: . . . we have many other books.
WOMAN *(sniffs)*: Do any of those have Robert Pattinson in them?

♦

CUSTOMER: Do you have any books in this shade of green, to match the wrapping paper I've bought?



CUSTOMER: These books are really stupid, aren't they?
BOOKSELLER: Which ones?
CUSTOMER: You know, the ones where animals like cats and mice are best friends.
BOOKSELLER: I suppose they're not very realistic, but then that's fiction.
CUSTOMER: They're more than unrealistic; they're really stupid.
BOOKSELLER: Well, writers use that kind of thing to teach kids about accepting people different to themselves, you know?
CUSTOMER: Yeah, well, books shouldn't pretend that different people get on like that and that everything is 'la de da' and wonderful, should they? Kids should learn that life's a bitch, and the sooner the better.

CUSTOMER: Do you have that book – I forget what it's called; it's about people with large, hairy feet.
BOOKSELLER: Do you mean hobbits? *The Lord of the Rings*?
CUSTOMER: No.... erm – The Hairy Bikers.

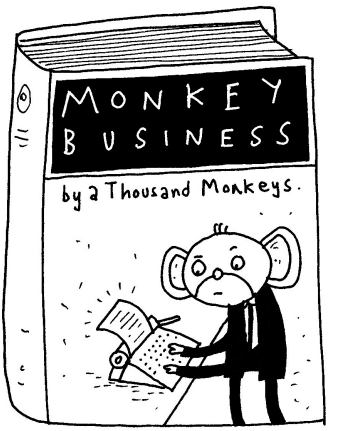
♦

CUSTOMER: My granddaughter's looking for a book about Agnes's knickers.. do you know what I mean?
BOOKSELLER: Agnes's knickers... Ah! Louise Rennison can be found over here.
[*Angus, Thongs and Full-Frontal Snogging*]

♦



CUSTOMER: Do you have any pop-up books on sex education?



CUSTOMER: You know how they say that if you gave a thousand monkeys typewriters, then they'd eventually churn out really good writing?
BOOKSELLER: . . . yes.
CUSTOMER: Well, do you have any books by those monkeys?
BOOKSELLER: . . .

♦

CUSTOMER *(holding up a copy of a Harry Potter book)*: This doesn't have anything weird in it... does it?
BOOKSELLER: You mean, like, werewolves?
CUSTOMER: No *(whispers)* - gays.
BOOKSELLER: . . . right.