

ON SCREEN

BEL AMI

Based on the novel by Guy de Maupassant, *Bel Ami* is an erotic drama set in Paris in the late 19th century. Georges Duroy (Robert Pattinson) returns from military service, intent on making his fortune. He eventually lands a job as a journalist, ruthlessly using seduction to climb the career ladder and integrate himself into the Parisian upper classes. Also starring Uma Thurman, Kristin Scott Thomas and Christina Ricci.

► **RELEASE DATE:** 9 March
www.belamifilm.com

IN DARKNESS

Leopold Socha, a sewer worker and petty thief in German-occupied Poland, earns money hiding a group of Jews from the Nazis in a sewer. What begins as a business arrangement becomes an alliance against evil as Socha begins to empathise with the Jews' plight.

► **RELEASE DATE:** 16 March
www.sonyclassics.com/indarkness

THE HUNGER GAMES

Based on a novel by Suzanne Collins, *The Hunger Games* is set in an unspecified future time in Panem — a country that was once North America. Now the evil Capitol Government holds a raffle to select 24 boys and girls to compete in the Hunger Games, a ruthless competition in which players must fight to the death until only one survivor remains. Jennifer Lawrence stars alongside Josh Hutcherson, Elizabeth Banks, Liam Hemsworth and Woody Harrelson.

► **RELEASE DATE:** 23 March
www.thehungergamesmovie.com

film THE RAVEN

► **Director:** James McTeigue

► **Starring:** John Cusack, Alice Eve, Luke Evans, Oliver Jackson-Cohen

► **Release date:** 9 March

► **Synopsis:** Set in the 19th century, this gothic murder mystery is a fictional version of the last days of poet and author Edgar Allan Poe's life. The story follows a young Baltimore detective (Evans) who joins forces with Poe (Cusack) to investigate a string of unusual murders that mirror a series penned by the writer. The killer challenges Poe to a game of wits, leaving behind clues to his identity on the bodies of

his victims. But when the woman he loves (Eve) is abducted by the killer, Poe has to use his detective skills to unmask him before it's too late.

► **Verdict:** The death of the real-life Poe at the age of 40 of unknown causes was mysterious enough, but *The Raven* presents an even more thrilling version of the events leading up to his demise.

► **Hit or miss:** From the director of *V for Vendetta*, this dark thriller — based on a Ben Livingston and Hannah Shakespeare screenplay — should appeal to fans of Poe and the macabre. www.theravenmovie.com

classic film ROYAL RENDEZVOUS

► **Film:** *Roman Holiday*

► **Release year:** 1953

► **Set in:** Rome

► **About:** A princess (Audrey Hepburn) on a trip to Rome decides to escape her entourage by sneaking out the window and onto the back of a delivery truck. She wakes up on a bench, where she's discovered by an American journalist, Joe Bradley (Gregory Peck). Bradley soon realises who she is and sets out to get an exclusive

interview. Iconic landmarks feature throughout the film, including the Spanish Steps, where Bradley convinces the princess to join him for a gelato, and the Mouth of Truth, where he pretends his arm has been bitten off by the carved stone face, which is rumoured to bite off the hands of liars. Lovers of the film can enjoy a Vintage Vespa tour of *Roman Holiday* locations. www.happyrent.com



books MOTORCYCLE DIARIES

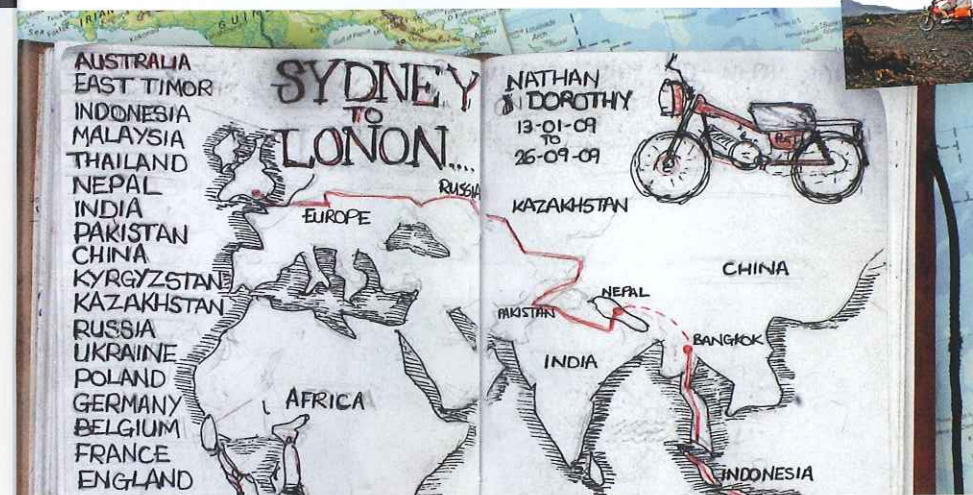
The passage from London to Sydney has become a popular route for today's twentysomething backpackers, but few will get to experience it on a 105cc motorcycle, passing through 18 countries and travelling more than 21,000 miles.

The Long Ride Home tells the story of Nathan Millward, a British traveller who discovers he has just 20 days to get out of Australia before his visa expires.

Instead of fleeing back to the UK on his return ticket, tail between his legs, Millward has an idea: to hit the open road on Doris,

a decommissioned Australia Post Honda bike, travelling up and over the equator before arriving back home after the journey of a lifetime.

In true trailblazer style, Millward carried little with him, relying instead on the kindness of strangers to provide shelter and food on his 2009 adventure, taking him north to Darwin, then through South-east Asia and onwards via China and Pakistan before the home run through Europe. From £9.99.



classic book ROAD TO RECOVERY



EAT, PRAY, LOVE: The touching tale of American author

Elizabeth Gilbert's emotional journey back from

depression via several pizza joints in Italy, an ashram

in India and the home of an ancient medicine man of

indiscernible age in Bali. Gilbert eventually finds inner

peace and love in the form of a sexy Brazilian factory

owner — the ultimate recipe for fulfilment.

new releases BOOKS



► **FOR FUKUI'S SAKE: TWO YEARS IN RURAL JAPAN**

An adventurous and humorous insight into life in the Japanese countryside by Sam Baldwin, whose adventures included joining a master drummer's *taiko* class, skiing over paddies and sharpening swords. From £3.99 (Kindle version). (Baka Books)



► **SECOND NATURE**

The image-led travelogue of acclaimed photographer Guy Tillim, who travelled to French Polynesia after being inspired by the artists who accompanied Captain James Cook to the South Pacific. The images capture natural wonders and epic landscapes. From £40. (Prestel)



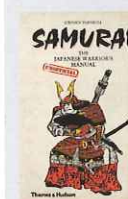
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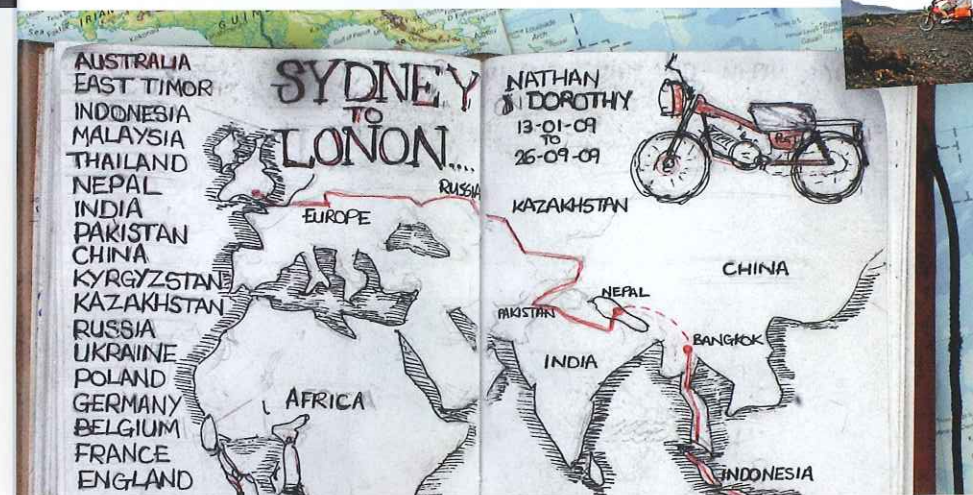
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