

FIVE GREAT BOOKS OUT THIS WEEK

THE HUMMINGBIRD

Sandro Veronesi,
trans. Elena Pala
(Weidenfeld &
Nicolson, £14.99)

A huge hit in Italy, where it won the nation's top literary prize, the Premio Strega, and has sold more than 300,000 copies since publication in 2019, Veronesi's novel has been hotly anticipated by English readers. The bird of the title is Marco Carrera, blessed with the gift of being able to stay still while the world around him turns to chaos. Life-affirming.



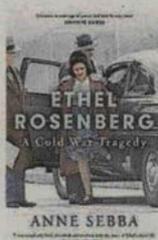
follows Barry Ashton to Pristina in Kosovo in 1999 where he's deployed as a civil engineer with the Royal Engineers. An original and affecting novel about men at war.



ETHEL ROSENBERG: A COLD WAR TRAGEDY

Anne Sebba
(Weidenfeld &
Nicolson, £20)

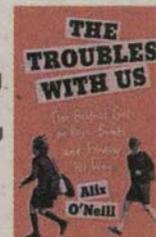
When Ethel Rosenberg was executed, with her husband Julius, after the trial of the century in 1953 for conspiracy to commit espionage, she became the first woman to be put to death for a crime other than murder in US history. Using Rosenberg's prison letters and extensive interviews with family members, Sebba produces a brilliant biography of a woman whose life personified a nation divided and the consequences of living under a frightened government.



THE TROUBLES WITH US

Alix O'Neill (Fourth Estate, £14.99)

With this compelling, funny, bewildering and moving memoir of growing up on the Falls Road in Belfast during the 1990s O'Neill has produced a literary equivalent of *Derry Girls*. Telling the story of her mother alongside her own elevates the book further, a valuable insight into the lives of women in Northern Ireland since the 1950s.



THE MAD-WOMEN'S BALL

Victoria Mas
(Doubleday, £14.99)

A big seller in the original French, this is a story set in a Paris women's asylum in 1885, the kind of establishment where patients were as likely to be inconvenient wives and headstrong daughters as genuinely ill. Every year there is a grand ball attended by members of high society, and this year events promise to take a decisive turn for everyone involved.



BATLAVA LAKE

Adam Mars-Jones (Fitzcarraldo
Editions, £10.99)

In a compelling exploration of class, identity and masculinity, *Batlava Lake*

