

Best book reviews Summer 2014

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From salty British folk fables to historic ripping yarns and naked adventures, here's our roundup of this summer's best new titles.



[Encircle Africa](#)

Ian M Packham (The Cloister House Press, £7.99)

It's always been a dream of mine to drive from Cairo to Cape Town. Scientist Ian Packham takes the journey to a whole different level – travelling solo through 31 countries, to circumnavigate the entire African coast by any means possible. His 13-month, 40,000km journey is an epic adventure, but sadly one his book fails to capture. It focuses on the logistics of the trip (travelling from Morocco to Sierra Leone in under 40 pages), at the expense of the people and places along the way. However, Packham does slow down halfway through his journey, allowing us to better understand the enormous achievement of circumnavigating Africa without a timetable. Overall, this is a fascinating journey.