I, Partridge - We Need to Talk about Alan

Alan Gordon Partridge is the best - and best-loved - radio presenter in the region. Born into a changing world of rationing, Teddy Boys, apes in space and the launch of ITV, Alan's broadcasting career began as chief DJ of Radio Smile at St. Luke's Hospital in Norwich. After replacing Peter Flint as the presenter of Scout About, he entered the top 8 of BBC sports presenters. But Alan's big break came with his primetime BBC chat show Knowing Me, Knowing You. Sadly, the show battled against poor scheduling, having been put up against News at Ten, then in its heyday. Due to declining ratings, a single catastrophic hitch (the killing of a guest on air) and the dumbing down of network TV, Alan's show was cancelled. Not to be dissuaded, he embraced this opportunity to wind up his production company, leave London and fulfil a lifelong ambition to return to his roots in local radio. Now single, Alan is an intensely private man but he opens up, for the second time, in this candid, entertaining, often deeply emotional - and of course compelling - memoir, written entirely in his own words. (Alan quickly dispelled the idea of using a ghost writer. With a grade B English Language O-Level, he knew he was up to the task.) He speaks touchingly about his tragic Toblerone addiction, about the time he got locked in the boot of a Rover 800 when an experiment to see if he could fit in it went wrong, and the painful moment when unsold copies of his first autobiography, Bouncing Back, were pulped like 'word porridge'. He reveals all about his relationship with his ex-Ukrainian girlfriend, Sonja, with whom he had sex at least twice a day, and the truth about the thick people who make key decisions at the BBC. A literary tour de force, I, PARTRIDGE: WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT ALAN charts the incredible journey of one of our greatest broadcasters.

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**Alan Partridge: Nomad**

As seen on This Time with Alan Partridge on BBC One. THE SUNDAY TIMES BESTSELLER
Praise for Nomad: ‘Funniest book of the year’ Sunday Telegraph 'Alan Partridge's Nomad is
almost certainly the funniest book ever written' Caitlin Moran 'Sensationally funny. What brilliant
writing' Richard Osman 'Sensational' Jenny Colgan 'Hilarious' Jon Ronson 'Brilliantly funny'
Marcus Brigstock In ALAN PARTRIDGE: NOMAD, Alan dons his boots, windcheater and scarf
and embarks on an odyssey through a place he once knew - it's called Britain - intent on
completing a journey of immense personal significance. Diarising his ramble in the form of a
'journey journal', Alan details the people and places he encounters, ruminates on matters large
and small and, on a final leg fraught with danger, becomes - not a man (because he was one to
start off with) - but a better, more inspiring example of a man. This deeply personal book is
divided into chapters and has a colour photograph on the front cover. It is deeply personal.
Through witty vignettes, heavy essays and nod-inducing pieces of wisdom, Alan shines a light
on the nooks of the nation and the crannies of himself, making this a biography that biographs
the biographer while also biographing bits of Britain.

**Easily Distracted**

Steve Coogan was born and raised in Manchester in the 1960s, the fourth of six children. From
an early age he entertained his family with impressions and was often told he should 'be on the
telly'. Failing to get into any of the London-based drama schools, he accepted a place at
Manchester Polytechnic School of Theatre and before graduating had been given his first break
as a voice artist on the satirical puppet show Spitting Image. The late eighties and early nineties
saw Coogan developing characters he could perform on the comedy circuit, from Ernest Moss
to Paul Calf, and in 1992 he won a Perrier award with John Thomson. It was around the same
time, while working with Armando Iannucci and Patrick Marber on On The Hour and The Day
Today, that Alan Partridge emerged, almost fully formed. Coogan, once a tabloid fixture, is now
a respected film actor, writer and producer. He runs his own production company, Baby Cow,
has a raft of films to his name (from 24 Hour Party People to Alpha Papa, the critically-
acclaimed Partridge film), six Baftas and seven Comedy Awards. He has found huge success in
recent years with both The Trip and Philomena, the latter bringing him two Oscar nominations,
for producing and co-writing. In Easily Distracted he lifts the lid on the real Steve Coogan,
writing with distinctive humour and an unexpected candour about a noisy childhood surrounded
by foster kids, his attention-seeking teenage years and his emergence as a household name
with the birth of Alan Partridge.

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**We Need to Talk About Kevin**

The inspiration for the film starring Tilda Swinton and John C. Reilly, this resonant story of a mother’s unsettling quest to understand her teenage son’s deadly violence, her own ambivalence toward motherhood, and the explosive link between them remains terrifyingly prescient. Eva never really wanted to be a mother. And certainly not the mother of a boy who murdered seven of his fellow high school students, a cafeteria worker, and a much–adored teacher in a school shooting two days before his sixteenth birthday. Neither nature nor nurture exclusively shapes a child’s character. But Eva was always uneasy with the sacrifices and social demotion of motherhood. Did her internalized dislike for her own son shape him into the killer he's become? How much is her fault? Now, two years later, it is time for her to come to terms with Kevin’s horrific rampage, all in a series of startlingly direct correspondences with her estranged husband, Franklin. A piercing, unforgettable, and penetrating exploration of violence and responsibility, a book that the Boston Globe describes as “impossible to put down,” is a stunning examination of how tragedy affects a town, a marriage, and a family.

**We Need to Talk About . . . Kevin Bridges**

The comic autobiography of 2014 A comedian's autobiography? I wonder if he's ever used humour to deflect from his insecurities? To avoid being bullied? Is there heartache behind the humour? I wonder if he's a manic-depressive? Tears of a clown? Yes, all of that. Discover the hilarious life-story of one of Britain's best-loved comedians in Kevin Bridges' brilliant memoir. 'First of all, I have never written a book before, you probably haven't either, so there we have it; a connection is established between reader and writer . . . ' Aged just 17, Kevin Bridges walked on stage for the first time in a Glasgow comedy club and brought the house down. He only had a five-minute set but in that short time he discovered that he really could earn a living from
making people laugh. Kevin began life as a shy, nerve-ridden school-boy, whose weekly highlights included a cake-bombing attack by the local youths. Reaching his teens, he followed his true calling as the class clown, and was soon after arrested for kidnapping Hugh Grant from his local cinema on a quiet Saturday night. This was a guy going somewhere - off the rails seeming most likely. Kevin’s trademark social commentary, sharp one-liners and laugh-out-loud humour blend with his reflections on his Glaswegian childhood and the journey he’s taken to become one of the most-loved comedians of our time. ‘... Hopefully now you'll take this over to the till and I can accompany you for the next wee while. That's the benefit of book shops, reading the little bit and then deciding if the author deserves to be part of your carefully selected 3 for 2 deal, or part of your plane journey, train journey, your next bath, your next shite.’ Praise for Kevin Bridges: 'The Best Scottish Stand up of his Generation.' The Scotsman 'A wonderfully dry and deadpan Glaswegian comic. . . . one the most exciting talents to have emerged from Scotland since Billy Connolly' Guardian 'Kevin Bridges might just become the best stand-up in the land . . . he will go and deliver a one-liner that you want to jot down and frame' The Times 'Wonderfully sharp, assured stand-up from the preternaturally gifted young comic' Independent

Alan Partridge - Every Ruddy Word : All the Scripts - from Radio to TV and Back

Alan Partridge is our most remarkable broadcaster. From the giddy heights of his short-lived TV chat show to the crashing lows of six months in a travel tavern, he's done it all. Whether shooting dead one of his guests on air; being crushed under a dead cow; having incomplete sex with a woman he was supposed to be sacking or encountering 'mentalist' fans, Alan remains a formidable presence. And despite suffering a breakdown, Toblerone addiction and skewering his foot on a spike he always bounces back. Every Ruddy Word is the complete story (with additional never-before-seen material) of one of Britain's most-enduring comic heroes. 'Charts every line of Mr Blazer's plummeting career from radio to TV to corporate video presenter. A treat.' The Times 'The man is a monster.' Guardian

Toast on Toast - Cautionary tales and candid advice

Toast on Toast is the must-have book for all budding actors - and non-actors too. In this part memoir, part 'how to act' manual, Steven Toast draws on his vast and varied experiences, providing the reader with an invaluable insight into his journey from school plays to RADA, and from 'It's a Right Royal Knockout' to the Colony Club. Along the way, he reveals the secrets of his success. He discloses how to brush up on and expand your technical and vocal skills, how to nail a professional voiceover, and how to deal with difficult work experience staff in a recording studio. He also reveals the dangers of typecasting, describes the often ruthless struggle for 'top billing', and shares many awesome nuggets of advice. The end result is a book that will inspire and educate anyone who wants to tread the floorboards. It will also inform (and entertain) anybody who simply wants to discover what a jobbing actor's life is actually like.

The Sound of Laughter
Peter Kay’s unerring gift for observing the absurdities and eccentricities of family life has earned himself a widespread, everyman appeal. These vivid observations coupled with a kind of nostalgia that never fails to grab his audience’s shared understanding, have earned him comparisons with Alan Bennett and Ronnie Barker. In his award winning TV series he creates worlds populated by degenerate, bitter, useless, endearing and always recognisable characters which have attracted a huge and loyal following. In many ways he’s an old fashioned kind of comedian and the scope and enormity of his fanbase reflects this. He doesn’t tell jokes about politics or sex, but rather rejoices in the far funnier areas of life: elderly relatives and answering machines, dads dancing badly at weddings, garlic bread and cheesecake, your mum’s HRT... His autobiography is full of this kind of humour and nostalgia, beginning with Kay’s first ever driving lesson, taking him back through his Bolton childhood, the numerous jobs he held after school and leading up until the time he passed his driving test and found fame.