

vintage originals

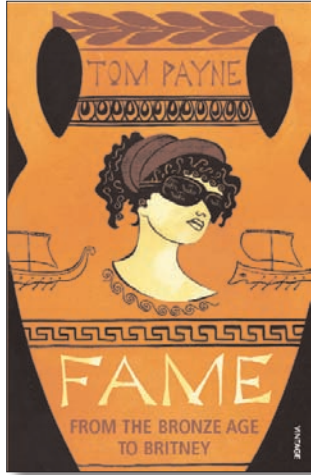
July 2009 – January 2010

VINTAGE BOOKS

TOM PAYNE

Fame

A History from the Bronze Age to Britney



Vintage Hardback

publication: August
 price: £10.00
 size: 198x129mm
 pages: 320
 ISBN: 9780099516392
 market: UKCWXC
 US rights: ICM
 translation rights: ICM
 serial rights: Vintage

Everybody wants their fifteen minutes of fame. But just what is it that elevates mere mortals to the status of gods, and why has celebrity become an increasing preoccupation in the modern world?

It was once ability, intelligence, power or beauty that established fame: military or sporting achievement, artistic, literary or musical genius, political prowess, blue blood or, occasionally, criminal depravity. Throughout history we have defined ourselves with reference to famous people and allowed them to exercise a strange power over us, and we a strange power over them.

But has fame changed? The cult of celebrity has become a global obsession. Are we more preoccupied with fame than before? Or have we always been a little too interested?

In *Fame*, Tom Payne expertly answers these puzzling questions and many more. From deities to divas, masterpieces to magazines, it is a book about the heroes, losers, loners and glamour pussies of all times. It is also a book about the rest of us, about what our hunger for celebrity says about ourselves, and about the value of fame, both good and bad.

Tom Payne was born in 1971. He read Classics at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. For four years he was deputy literary editor of the *Daily Telegraph*. He lives with his wife and three daughters in Dorset, and teaches English and Classics at Sherborne School.

ESTHER VILAR

The Seven Fires of Mademoiselle



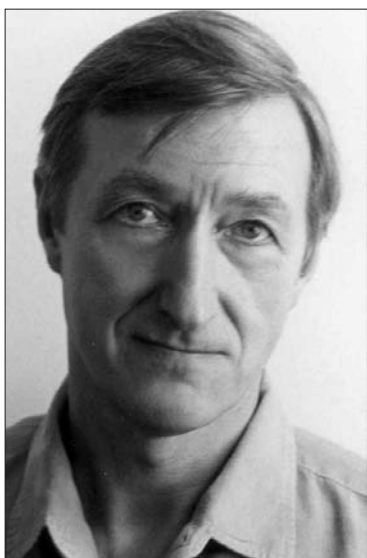
publication: August
 price: £7.99
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 pages: 176
 ISBN: 9780099531647
 US rights: MBA Literary Agents
 translation rights: MBA Literary Agents
 serial rights: Vintage

In the glory days of JFK's presidency, Carlota, the small daughter of the Argentine ambassador in Washington, embarks on a series of daring adventures with her astonishingly beautiful, yet mildly eccentric, French nanny, Mademoiselle.

Mademoiselle is courted by all the eligible bachelors in town, without ever batting an eyelid or showing the tiniest jot of interest until, on Christmas Day 1962, Carlota's home-made decorations catch fire and the local fire brigade are called to the scene. Among the tall, athletic firemen there is one short, balding man called Nick Kowalski with whom Mademoiselle falls instantly and passionately in love – because he is a 'real man'. However, how can she ever contrive to meet him again and win him over? The answer lies in a box of matches...

Carlota's overactive imagination and Mademoiselle's determination to stop at nothing to get close to her beloved lead the pair into many extraordinary incendiary escapades: but can they truly capture the heart of the surly fireman? And how can they attract his attention without also attracting the attention of the law?

Esther Vilar is a Buenos Aires-born playwright and the author of a classic non-fiction work on gender politics called *The Manipulated Man* (1971), which caused great controversy and was a bestseller on its publication, and is still in print today.



JULIAN BARNES

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