

# Weekend Books

Edited by **Caroline Jowett**  
www.express.co.uk/books

## PICK OF THE PAPERBACKS

### THE UNLUCKY LOTTERY ★★ ★★

by **Mikael Nessén**  
Pan Books, £7.99

FOUR friends win the lottery. Soon after one of them is stabbed to death and another goes missing. Independent Münster will investigate the crime but he doesn't know that uncovering the truth will endanger his life as well as others.

### THE JANE AUSTEN MARRIAGE MANUAL ★★ ★★

by **Kim Izzo**  
Hodder & Stoughton, £6.99

SINGLE and penniless writer Kate is on an assignment to prove that in times of economic crisis the only accessory a woman needs is a wealthy man.

Employing years of romantic instruction from Jane Austen novels, Kate mingles with millionaires, billionaires and oil tycoons.

Does bagging a man who can guarantee an endless supply of shoes, holidays and spray tans guarantee a lifetime of fulfilment and most importantly, love?

### SISTER QUEENS: KATHERINE OF ARAGON AND JUANA QUEEN OF CASTILE ★★ ★★

by **Julia Fox**  
Phoenix, £9.99

KATHERINE of Aragon was the first wife of Henry VIII. Her sister Juana of Castile was the fiercely loyal wife of Philip of Burgundy and the mother of the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V. The experiences and sacrifices of these two notable women linked by blood and circumstance are told in context.

### LONDON, YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL: AN ARTIST'S YEAR ★★ ★★

by **David Gentleman**  
Penguin, £20.00

CAPTURING the change of seasons in London over the course of one year, this coffee table collection of David Gentleman's lively watercolours and prints is affectionate and evocative. Accompanied by notes on his work.

### CHARLOTTE VOWDEN

# Overtures of forgotten war

## THE CHALLENGE: BRITAIN AGAINST AMERICA IN THE NAVAL WAR OF 1812 ★★ ★★

by **Andrew Lambert**  
Faber & Faber, £20

IF SOMEBODY were to mention the year 1812 you would probably think of the overture that Tchaikovsky later composed to celebrate Russia's salvation following Napoleon's retreat from Moscow. But 1812 was also the year the USA went to war against Britain

Britain won this two-year war it included no glorious feats to rival Trafalgar or Waterloo and was anyway a distraction from the main enterprise of defeating Napoleon in Europe.

Yet for Americans, who afterwards exaggerated the military success of their navy, the War of 1812 nonetheless held immense significance because it marked the point when the young nation turned away, for at least a century, from an Atlantic destiny and looked at expanding a westward frontier.

The ostensible cause of the

ports and commerce raiding against French merchant ships. Britain took the view goods carried to France by neutral ships were not neutral and encouraged the impressments of English subjects serving on American ships so as to replenish its naval manpower.

Once the Royal Navy had bottled up America's ports by blockade it could deal with the reduced threat from American warships or private commerce raiders almost at its leisure. America had a handful of 44-gun super-frigates. They were