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The Bookshelf Behind the Black Door **Sarah Brown reveals the books that graced the** **shelves of Number 10**

On the day that her book, *Behind the Black Door*, is published, Sarah Brown, campaigner, mother, twitter-icon and wife of the ex-Prime Minister Gordon Brown, has revealed the books that have inspired, educated and entertained her in her various roles.

The list, along with Sarah Brown's personal insights and comments on each title, is available at Waterstones.com/sarahbrown, and contains a wide range of titles from bestselling fiction and kids books, to poetry and inspirational non-fiction. She chooses books by chefs Jamie Oliver and Delia Smith, inspirational figures Carol Ann Duffy

Several titles are clearly chosen for their inspirational qualities. The first book on the list is Carol Ann Duffy's *Love Poems*. Sarah Brown says he is "so proud to see the appointment of the first ever female poet laureate" and eventually met the poet at a fundraiser Duffy had invited Gordon Brown to speak at raise funds for Haiti. *Stories of Mothers Lost* is published for the White Ribbon Alliance, of which Sarah Brown is global patron. She says "every single mum is the most important person in the world to someone."

She also chooses *The Road to Wanting* by Wendy Law-Yone. Sarah Brown met the Burmese writer at an event at No 10 to mark the 64th birthday of Aung San Suu Kyi, and describes the novel as "powerful and captivating". Martha Lane Fox recommended *Burnt Shadows* by Kamila Shamsi which she "devoured straight away". Martin Gilbert's *The Holocaust* makes the list as she remembers "one of the most moving visits I made with Gordon... to Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Jerusalem."

Sarah Brown is noted for her presence on Twitter, which explains the presence of *Twitterature* (Alexander Aciman and Emmett Rensin) – which reduces the world's great books into tweetspeak, "a hugely creative and very irreverent reminder of why you loved them in the first place."

Piers Morgan makes the list for *Misadventures of a Big Mouth*. Brown says "my friend Piers never ever fails to make an impact when I see him" and that she is "thrilled that he is now flying the flag for Britain" on CNN. *One Day* by David Nicholls, one of the most read and talked about novels in years and one of the books chosen to be given away on World Book Night, is a book Brown loved so much she "immediately tweeted about it, and still gets tweets back from people who picked up the recommendation and have fallen in love with it too."

Obviously Sarah Brown had a ringside seat to the then-Government's efforts to tackle recent economic problems, so has chosen *Beyond the Crash*, "written by the person – my husband, Gordon – who really knows what happened and what we need to do next."

Waterstone's spokesperson Jon Howells described Sarah Brown's list and comments as "inspirational and refreshingly quirky, like chatting about books with a friend. Her amiable, approachable style will hopefully bring new readers to some great books."

Sarah Brown's Choices

Love Poems by Carol Ann Duffy
Twitterature by Alexander Aciman and Emmett Rensin
Stories of Mothers Lost from the White Ribbon Alliance
Misadventures of a Big Mouth Brit by Piers Morgan
The Road to Wanting by Wendy Law-Yone
Jamie Oliver's Bake Sale by Jamie Oliver for Red Nose Day 2011
Burnt Shadows by Kamila Shamsi
You Choose by Nick Sharratt
Zilch by Nancy Lublin
One Day by David Nicolls
Grandparents edited by Sarah Brown and Gil Mcneil
The Holocaust by Martin Gilbert
End of the Line by Charles Clover
Turning Points by Julia Ogilvy
Hats; An Anthology by Stephen Jones
Teach your granny to text and other ways to change the world by We are What we Do
The Silence at the Song's End by Nicholas Heiney
A History of the World in 100 Objects by Neil MacGregor
Half the Sky by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl DuWunn
Guinness World Records
Beyond the Crash: Overcoming the First Crisis of Globalisation by Gordon Brown
Delia's Complete How To Cook by Delia Smith
How to be a Woman by Caitlin Moran

<http://www.waterstones.com/waterstonesweb/pages/sarah-brown/2283/>

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