

FOR THE OFFICE

TITLE: *How to Grow Your Business: For Entrepreneurs*
 AUTHOR: Alex Blyth
 PUBLISHER: Pearson Education
 PRICE: 79 AED

Financial journalist, writer, consultant and all round good egg, Blyth has added another tie to his Savile Row collection by releasing two books in nearly as many months. Along with his other release – *365 Ways to Cut Costs* – this self-help tool-kit promises

to turn an ambitious reader into the William the Conqueror or Queen Victoria of the small to medium business world. Devoid of anodyne processes and glib acronyms, Blyth throws the gauntlet down to established entrepreneurs who are trying to grow their business into Darth Vader sized empires but have run out of ideas.

Peppered with inspiration and logic from Cicero and Confucius to Albert Einstein and Andrew Carnegie – “no person will make a great business who wants to do it all by himself” – Blyth manages to educate and entertain without coming across as the irritating know-it-all from the accounts department. Still he can't have it all his way; more in hope than in expectation, he is a Tottenham Hotspur fan.



FOR THE LOUNGE

TITLE: *The Year of the Flood*
 AUTHOR: Margaret Atwood
 PUBLISHER: Bloomsbury
 PRICE: 124 AED

Booker Prize-winner Margaret Atwood is one of the literary world's most respected authors. Fellow writers fall at her Canadian feet like maple leaves and with more than 30

books of fiction, essays and poetry in her library it's hardly surprising. Forming a diptych with her previous novel, *Oryx and Crake*, Atwood's latest masterpiece is set in a dystopian future – which seems not too dissimilar to post-apocalyptic Winnipeg – and in the author's words is “speculative fiction”, not science fiction. Concerning itself with the God's Gardeners, who meld theology and science, and delving into the God-like issues of environmental stability and natural disaster, Atwood tells the story of the world's last remaining survivors as they make their way through a changed world. From a writer at the top of her tree – she is referred to as the Grand Dame of Canadian letters after all – Atwood truly is a scintillating wordsmith.

FOR THE STUDY

TITLE: *Halfway to Hollywood: Diaries 1980-1988*
 AUTHOR: Michael Palin
 PUBLISHER: Orion
 PRICE: 130 AED

When he's not defending dead parrots, dressing up as a woman/lumberjack/upper class twit (delete as appropriate) or lording it up

at the taxpayer's expense by travelling around the world for the BBC, Michael Palin could perhaps have made more of a career out of being an author. This, his second collection of diaries to be published following the runaway success of *The Python Years*, covers the years when he quit the world's most famous comedy brood and went on to become an award-winning Hollywood actor, writer, producer and documentary star. Yes, he's multi-talented, but as he himself admits early on, “this is still a man who doesn't really know what he wants to do”. Palin's diaries have a fluid yet haphazard style, and despite stuttering between both the large and small screens like his character Ken from *A Fish Called Wanda*, it makes for an engaging read. Cheeky highlights include having chips stuck up his nose while on the Wanda set, hanging with midgets filming *Time Bandits* and recording Moty Python's Contractual Obligation Album. Quite possibly, he's the nicest man in show business. ✚