

# **HIGH WYCOMBE LIVING LIBRARY**

*Take out your prejudice!*

Sundays 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 12-4pm

## **The Catalogue**

The Living Library is an initiative aimed at helping us to develop a better first-hand understanding of people from diverse backgrounds, using conversation and encounter to break through prejudices and stereotypes. Like any library, at a Living Library event readers can come in and borrow a book. The difference is that each 'book' is a person and the 'reading' is a conversation (of up to 30 minutes). The 'books' in the catalogue represent a group in society who may be subject to stereotype, misunderstanding or prejudice. The 'reading' is a chance to ask questions in a safe neutral environment and creates a space for conversations that might not otherwise happen.

*Browse our catalogue... and decide which prejudice you will take out!*

# African Caribbean Person

So casual and laidback this book is often seen as lazy. Associated with knife crime and gangs, this book was raised in a broken family with an absent father, but a strong domineering mother. The young men underachieve at school and live a life of crime, benefits and reggae.

*Is this true...? Check it out and*

*Explore diversity*

This title is available: 15 and 22 November

Enjoyed this book? Why not try Immigrant or Sikh?

# Albino British Pakistani

Because of a **genetic** fault, this book looks British but is a member of the Pakistani Muslim community. He has **physical problems** including poor eyesight. This book generates **misunderstanding** and doesn't **belong**, abused and mocked by **both** communities.

*Want a better understanding...? **Check it out and**  
Change your perception*

This title is available: 22 November

Enjoyed this title? Try Older Pakistani Immigrant or Visually Impaired Person.

# Army Officer

This book enjoys **violence** and loves high-tech weapons. Because of its work, this book is unemotional and **desensitized** to violence and horror. It is arrogant and probably racist and scornful of human rights. This book **obeys orders** without thought or question.

*Is this true...? Check it out and*

*Discover the difference*

This title is available: 15 November

Enjoyed this read? Try PCSO or Lord.

# Baha'i

This wishy-washy book doesn't really know what it believes. Its religion is a recent **upstart**, borrowing **prophets and holy men** from other world religions. It is more like a **sect** than a religion. By trying to embrace all beliefs it thinks its **wisdom is superior**, but it ends up standing for **everything and nothing**.

*Can this be true...? **Check it out and***

*Encounter the real person*

This title is available: 15 and 22 November

Enjoyed this read? Try other faith titles such as Woman Vicar, Sikh or Buddhist.

# Buddhist

This book is cut off from **reality**. It engages in strange **chanting** and has **bizarre beliefs** about **reincarnation**. It must be **vegetarian**, because it can cause no harm. It seeks a **state of nirvana**, so it is **unable to function** in normal society.

*Is this really true...? **Check it out** and*

*Improve understanding*

This title is available: 15 November

If you enjoyed this book try other faith titles such as Sikh, Catholic and Imam.

# Catholic

As a member of the universal church, this book is **highly critical** of other Christian churches, which have broken away from the true faith. This book is so **pious** and devout as to be **gullible**. The book is from a **large family** because of the Church's doctrine on **contraception**. This book is directly influenced and controlled by the **Pope**.

*Can this be true...? Check it out and*

*Explore through dialogue*

This title is available: 15 and 22 November

Enjoyed this read? Try other faith titles such as Baha'i, Sikh and Buddhist.

# Environmentalist

A very **naive** book that **preaches** doom and **gloom** about the 21<sup>st</sup> century lifestyle. This book urges a return to the **simple life**. It believes the **global warming myth** and wants everyone to **abstain** from air travel, cars, central heating and **plastic**. It **cares** more about **polar bears** than people and probably **hugs trees**.

*Can this be true...? Check it out and*

*Discuss the difference*

This title is available: 15 and 22 November

Enjoyed this read? Try *Woman Vicar* or *Pagan*.

# Gay Man

Dedicated to a hedonistic lifestyle, this book is seen as **promiscuous** and **irresponsible**. Reputedly concerned about his looks and vain about appearance, this book's **choice** of sexuality leads to a life of **perversion** and **disease**. **Hated and feared** by some, this book should not be discussed in polite society and certainly not in front of the children.

*What is the reality...? **Check it out and***

*Encounter the real person*

This title is available: 15 November

Enjoyed this read? Try Environmentalist or Youth.

# Hard of Hearing Person

This book doesn't look deaf; it isn't **old**. This book is **cut off** and **isolated**, and just doesn't try to understand accents. When this book talks in shops or on the bus it will be **too loud**. Lack of social life makes this book **grumpy** and **bad-tempered**. Its loss of hearing consigns this book to a **miserable** existence.

*Is this really true...? **Check it out** and*

*Remove misunderstanding*

This title is available: 15 November

Enjoyed this read? Try Visually Impaired Person.

# Head Teacher

This book is a power hungry, authoritarian know-it-all who is distant, unapproachable and preoccupied with the school's league table results. This book is overpaid and has an easy time because the job has short working hours and long holidays.

*Can this be right...? Check it out and*

*Challenge your perceptions*

This title is available: 15 and 22 November

Enjoyed this read? Try Local Councillor or PCSO.

# Hearing Impaired Person Hearing Dog: in two volumes

This book is cut off and isolated by its physical disability. Because it cannot communicate it is incapable of working or supporting itself. Lack of social life makes this book grumpy and bad-tempered. Its loss of hearing consigns this book to a miserable existence. And just what does the dog do anyway?

*What is the reality...? Check it out and*

*Discover diversity*

This Title is available: 22 November

Enjoyed this title? Try Puppy Socializer.

# Homeless Person

This book can't be bothered to work or look after itself. It **chooses** to be homeless and is irresponsible and unreliable. It **begs** in order to supplement any state benefits provided by hard-working taxpayers. It is **dirty** and **smelly** and may have a **drink** or drug problem.

*How true is this...? Check it out and*

*Explore differences*

This title is available: 15 and 22 November

Enjoyed this title? Try Journalist or Pagan.

# Imam (Muslim Leader)

This narrow minded and intolerant book rejects all other religions. It **criticizes** western values and privately supports terrorism. A foreign non-English speaker, this book preaches segregation and isolation and despises democracy. It wears strange clothes and promotes foreign customs and laws.

*Can this be right...? Check it out and*

*Encounter the real person*

This title is available: 15 and 22 November

Enjoyed this read? Try other faith titles such as Sikh, Baha'i and Muslim Woman.

# Immigrant

This book **sneaked** into the country **illegally** and lives on state **benefits**. It doesn't work, won't learn **English**, and does not want to integrate. It is unwilling to adopt the superior British way of life. If it does work, it **takes away our jobs**, avoids taxes and sends all its money home.

*Can this be real...? Check it out and*

*Discover through dialogue*

This title is available: 15 November

Enjoyed this read? Try **Older Pakistani Immigrant** or **African Caribbean Person**.

# Jewish Person

An **insular** book, **aloof** and unwilling to mix with other groups, this title has an inflated sense of its own self worth and looks down on people of other religions. A **Zionist** at heart, this book longs for its **homeland** and despite its sense of superiority feels an **outsider** and a **victim**. It also has a reputation as tight-fisted and miserly.

*What is the reality...? **Check it out** and*

*Explore the difference*

This title is available: tbc

Enjoyed this book? Try other faith titles such as Imam and Woman Vicar.

# Journalist

Very unpopular, this book enjoys bad news and ignores the good. It is interested in getting a story not in the truth, so exaggerates and twists facts and quotes. It is biased, untrustworthy and pushy and preys on the vulnerable.

*Can this be right...? Check it out and*

*Discover the difference*

This title is available: 22 November

If you enjoyed this book, try Local Councillor or Police Officer.

# Local Councillor

This self-opinionated book is supposed to represent the community, but is more interested in its own career. Required to be liked, this book changes its opinion to suit the audience. It is arrogant, smug and untrustworthy. It does not listen and often breaks promises. Some editions may 'have a hand in the till'.

*Is this really true...? Check it out and  
Change your perspective*

This title is available: 15 and 22 November

Enjoyed this title? Try Head Teacher or Lord.

# Lord

This privileged book looks down on everyone. It does **not** have a **proper job**, lives off inherited **wealth**, and spends its time attending **social** and **sporting events**. As a result it is **out of touch** with real life. It is **aloof**, unapproachable, and likely to speak with a **loud posh** accent.

*Is this really true...? **Check it out** and*

*Encounter the real person*

This title is available: 22 November

Enjoyed this title? Try **Army Officer** or **Gay Man**.

# Muslim Woman

A reclusive and **isolated** book who only associates with other Muslims and will not speak to men, this book is forced to wear a **headscarf**. She is **oppressed** by her religion and culture. She must always **obey** her husband. This book is uneducated, doesn't work and is probably foreign and doesn't speak English.

*How true is this...? **Check it out and***

*Explore diversity*

This title is available: 15 and 22 November

Enjoyed this book? Try Woman Vicar or Imam.

# Older Pakistani Immigrant

This book is **isolated** by age, culture, language and choice. It is intolerant and **unfriendly**. It wears **strange clothes** unsuited for the British climate. This book follows foreign customs and **does not integrate** into British culture.

*What is the reality...? **Check it out** and  
Change your perspective*

This title is available: tbc

Enjoyed this read? Try African Caribbean or Immigrant.

# Pagan

This book is either an evil **devil** worshipper, or a misguided airy-fairy New Age eccentric. Its **strange rituals** are a pick-and-mix selection of early religions and folk culture and modern **invention**. This book is **weird, godless** and a bit scary.

*Is this true...? **Check it out** and*

*Challenge a prejudice*

This title is available: 15 and 22 November

Enjoyed this read? Try Youth or Environmentalist.

# PCSO

## Police Community Support Officer

This book is really a **pretend** police officer. Its deployment on our streets is a cynical ploy to blind us to low numbers of our **beloved local Bobbie**. This book is **untrained**, ineffectual and has **no power** or authority. Often found in pairs, this book wanders the town **aimlessly**, **chatting** with other editions or hanging out in cafes.

*What is the truth...? **Check it out and***

*Discover the difference*

This title is available: 22 November

Enjoyed this read? Try Teenage Mother or Head Teacher.

# Police Officer

This book is aggressive and enjoys confrontation. When on duty this book is intolerant, officious, doesn't respect human rights and won't listen to reason. Bound by paperwork and rules, this book is not effective and doesn't prevent crime.

*Can this be right...? Check it out and*

*Change your perspective*

This title is available: 15 November

If you enjoyed this read try Army Officer or Journalist.

# Puppy Socializer

This book spends all its time **dragging** a young, **half-trained** dog around shops and public places where dogs should **not be allowed**. The dog will **not** be useful. What can it do for someone who is **deaf** anyway?

*What are the facts...? **Check it out and***

*Get a better picture*

This title is available: 22 November

Enjoyed this read? Try World War II Internee.

# Sikh

This book is easily identifiable by its strange headwear and beard. It has to carry a sword and is often regarded as militaristic. This book's beliefs are weird and fantastic and it follows Gurus and strange rituals. It does not integrate into our culture and is intolerant of others, including Hindus.

*Can this be right...? Check it out and*

*Encounter the real person*

This title is available: 15 and 22 November

If you enjoyed this book try other faith titles such as Woman Vicar or Baha'i.

# Teenage Mother

To be in this position, this book must be both **promiscuous** and **careless**. She may even have become pregnant to get a **council house**. This book has **no job**, is uneducated and probably not in a **stable relationship**. She is a **bad parent**, who will raise a **delinquent, unruly** if not **criminal child**.

*Can this be true...? **Check it out and***

*Explore the difference*

This title is available: 15 and 22 November

Enjoyed this title? Try Youth, Homeless Person or Pagan.

# Visually Impaired Person

Because of its limited vision this book cannot appreciate beauty, literature or art and is culturally deprived. It is also socially isolated because it cannot read body language or facial expression. This book is unable to care for itself and certainly cannot raise a family. It can only get around if helped by a dog or an obliging passer-by. This book needs to be pitied.

*Can this be right...? Check it out and*

*Change your perspective*

This title is available: 15 and 22 November

If you enjoyed this read try Hard of Hearing Person.

# Woman Vicar

This dowdy, badly dressed book is a bleeding heart liberal and either overly assertive or rather feeble. She is a girl in a man's job, most likely a feminist too. She is unmarried and out of touch and a bit of a square.

*Is this true...? Check it out and*

*Discuss the difference*

This title is available: 15 and 22 November

Enjoyed this read? Try another faith title such as Imam, Buddhist or Catholic.

# World War II Internee

This book was held by the Japanese in Hong Kong. She is a real piece of **living history**. She feels that her story is **ignored**. Europe dominates Remembrance ceremonies and anniversaries. This book's tale is **boring**, but it defines her life. Traumatized for life, she is a **victim** that lives in the **past**.

*Is this true...? Check it out and*

*Explore through dialogue*

This title is available: 15 and 22 November

Enjoyed this book? Try Lord or Immigrant.

# Youth

Hiding in its **hoodie** this gum-chewing book **slouches** around town wasting time. It **hangs out** with other editions **swearing**, shouting and texting. People are afraid of this book and cross the street to **avoid it**. It is usually up to **no good**, doesn't study and shows **no respect** for adults.

*What is the reality...? **Check it out** and*

*Challenge your perceptions*

This title is available: 15 and 22 November

Enjoyed this read? Try Environmentalist or Teenage Mother.

## Living Library Rules

- Anyone wishing to borrow a Book must register as a reader. By becoming a reader you accept the rules of the Living Library.
- You can choose a Book that you would like to read (have a conversation with) from the catalogue. If the Book you wish to read is already on loan, you can choose a different one or come back later.
- You can spend up to 30 minutes with your Book, anywhere on the second floor of High Wycombe Library. The Book must then be returned. Readers may request to extend their reading time by another 30 minutes at the Issuing Desk.
- Only registered readers can borrow a Book.
- Books cannot be reserved in advance and only one Book can be borrowed at a time.
- It is fine to borrow a Book with a friend, up to a maximum of three readers at a time.
- The reader must return the Book in the same mental and physical condition as borrowed. It is forbidden to cause damage to the book, tear out or bend pages, or hurt her or his dignity in any other way.
- The reader accepts the fact that books can withdraw from the conversation at any time if they feel they are being treated inappropriately.
- The Living Library is free of charge for all registered users!