

Ironclad (Templario)

It is 1215 and England's King John (Paul Giamatti) has been forced by the country's barons to sign the Magna Carta, a document stating that a monarch's will is not arbitrary, and no man can be punished except under the law of the land. No sooner is the ink dry, than John attempts to bring the country under his tyrannical rule once more. Standing in his way is Baron Albany (Brian Cox) who defends the strategically important Rochester Castle with his motley crew of fighters: the brooding Templar Knight, Marshall (James Purefoy), the impulsive and irreverent Beckett (Jason Flemyng) and a naïve young squire named Guy (Aneurin Barnard). Into this mix comes Isabel (Kate Mara), the beautiful mistress of Rochester Castle who seeks to tempt Marshall to break his sacred Templar vows. The excruciating lack of chemistry between Mara and Purefoy makes for awkward viewing, and renders Mara's performance a little irritating. Although entertaining, not least when Giamatti brings John's anger to the fore, this is certainly not for the faint-hearted—tongue and limb severing feature prominently. With British stalwarts Charles Dance, Mackenzie Crook and Derek Jacobi all joining the fray, *Ironclad* is dynamically and engagingly shot, although it might fail to grip some viewers for the full 121 minute running-time. **Out now**



Ironclad

each other at the engagement party speeches to getting the claws out over the perfect bridesmaid's dress. Including a food poisoning scene with enough vomit to rival *Team America* and Monty Python's *The Meaning of Life*, *Bridesmaids* pulls all the gross-out comedy strings with varying success. It's a little predictable and heavily reliant on stereotypical jokes, but still manages laugh-out-loud moments that are to be expected from director Paul Feig, especially with his track record of *Knocked Up* and *Bad Teacher*. *Little Britain*'s Matt Lucas as Annie's strange housemate brings more fun to the goings-on that makes *Bridesmaids* an entertaining comedy for the summer. **Out 12 Aug**

Bridesmaids (La boda de mi mejor amiga)

With a dismal love life, no job and the looming prospect of moving back in with her mother as an over-thirty year old, Annie (Kristen Wiig) is down and out and not having fun. When her best friend Lillian (Maya Rudolph) asks her to be her maid of honour, leading a motley crew of bridesmaids through all the pre-wedding events, all



Bridesmaids

goes well until seemingly perfect Helen (Rose Byrne) steps into the picture. Tensions run high as beautiful, rich and sociable Helen tries to out-do clumsy, broke Annie in organising Lillian's wedding, from one-upping

Super 8

In the summer of 1979, two best friends Joe Lamb (Joel Courtney) and Charles (Riley Griffiths) band together to produce a zombie movie in a small Ohio town. Enrolling the help of two classmates and Joe's crush Alice Dainard (Elle Fanning) they begin filming on an 8mm camera. Things get complicated when they inadvertently capture a train crash while filming their first scene, only to discover that there is more to the accident than first appears. Finding their high school biology teacher behind the wheel of the car that crashed the train wreck, the kids quickly learn that something is amiss. Soon after, the military shows up and strange things start happening—people are disappearing, power begins to fail and even loyal pet dogs start running away from home. Joe's father, Deputy Jackson Lamb (Kyle Chandler) suspects all is not right when the Air Force puts the town in lockdown and refuses to cooperate with local police. Directed and written by J J Abrams and produced by Steven Spielberg, this sci-fi blockbuster ticks all the boxes for a summer hit, whilst not quite sparkling in its originality. **Out 19 Aug**

Also out

Paul After hit Britcoms *Shaun of the Dead* and *Hot Fuzz*, Simon Pegg and Nick Frost make their US movie debut together as two sci-fi nerds touring American UFO sites in a camper van who bump into Paul (voiced by Seth Rogen), an alien with attitude who's on the run from the feds and trying to get back to his mothership. Written by the two stars, it's directed by *Superbad*'s Greg Mottola and also features Jason Bateman, Kristen Wiig and Sigourney Weaver. **Out now**

Mr Popper's Penguins (Los Pingüinos del Sr Popper) Jim Carrey stars as the titular Mr Popper, a rich New York businessman whose life is turned upside down when he takes delivery of a box of six live penguins with seven-dwarf-style names—Stinky, Captain, Loudy, Bitey, Lovey and Nimrod. Watch out for now 85-year-old *Murder, She Wrote* actress Angela Lansbury in a supporting role. **Out now**



Mr Popper's Penguins

Green Lantern (Linterna Verde) In this adaptation of the DC Comics series, Ryan Reynolds fights to save Earth as test pilot Hal Jordan, the first human to be recruited to the Green Lantern Corps and granted the powers of its ring, which enables members to mould the physical world with their thoughts. New Zealander Martin Campbell, best known for James Bond flicks *GoldenEye* and *Casino Royale*, directs, while Blake Lively, Peter Saarsgard, Mark Strong, Tim Robbins and Angela Bassett also figure. **Out now**

The Smurfs (Los Pitufos) "Where the smurf are we?" In this 3D live-action/animated big-screen adventure Les Schtroumpfs, as the little blue Belgians are known in the original French (*Smurfs* is the Dutch translation), find themselves in the Big Apple after they're

chased through a portal by evil wizard Gargamel (*The Simpsons*' Hank Azaria). If you find people saying things like "smurf happens" particularly amusing, it should be a smurfin' riot. **Out now**

Captain America: The First Avenger (Capitán América: el Primer Vengador) I know what you're thinking: if only Hollywood just made a few more superhero movies. Well, you're in luck as here's another: the first big-screen version (let's forget the straight-to-video 1990 adaptation) of Marvel's Captain America. Directed by *Jurassic Park III*'s Joe Johnston, the film focuses on the character's early years when an experimental World War II army programme turns weakling Steve Rogers (Chris Evans) into a supersoldier and sends him to fight against arch Nazi villain Red Skull (*The Matrix*'s Hugo Weaving). **5 Aug**

Rise of the Planet of the Apes (El Origen del Planeta de los Simios) After Tim Burton's not very imaginative "re-imagining" of the original Charlton Heston movie about an earth ruled by apes, this aims to reboot the franchise by heading right back to the beginning. James Franco is a scientist who accidentally gives a chimpanzee, Caesar, human-like intelligence while testing an anti-Alzheimer's drug. Promptly escaping, Caesar administers the wonder serum to his primate pals who start using their superior strength and newfound brains to challenge humankind's dominance on earth. Perhaps—perhaps—the smartest blockbuster of the summer. **5 Aug**

Conan the Barbarian (Conan el Bárbaro) Rather than have anything to do with the two 1980s Arnie films about the beefy Cimmerian warrior, this new 3D adaptation claims to go back to the roots of 1930s pulp writer Robert E Howard's original character. Mr Muscles Jason Momoa (*Stargate Atlantis*) stars as the brutish barbarian battling to save the kingdom of Hyboria from malevolent supernatural forces, while Rose McGowan and Ron Perlman offer support. **19 Aug**

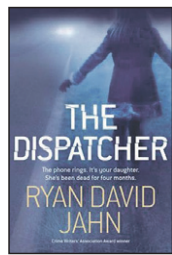
Mammoth In this French comedy Gérard Depardieu stars as a long-haired slaughterhouse worker revisiting his former employers on his trusty old motorcycle—the "Mammoth" of the title—in order to collect the paperwork he needs to retire. Gustave de Kervern and Benoît Deléphine direct. **19 Aug**

bookbuzz

The Dispatcher

Ryan David Jahn Macmillan

"Gripping." "Addictive." "I walked into a tree reading it." So say the reviews for *The Dispatcher*—the third book by Ryan David Jahn. They're not wrong; I had a few near-collisions with people on the Metro whilst ploughing through this fast-paced crime thriller. Pick it up and you're soon lost in the regretful world of Ian Hunt, a police officer whose grey existence is snapped back into colour by a single phone call: it's from Maggie, his daughter, missing for seven years and recently declared dead. Now 14, she's been kidnapped, and she needs his help. But the call is abruptly terminated with a scream before she can tell her father who is holding her captive. Jahn's background as a film-maker shines through and his deep characterisation gives this novel a real edge. It's impossible not to hate one particular individual, Henry Dean, a sadistic man who justifies his hateful acts by feeding off the weakness of his wife Beatrice. You'll find yourself thinking about this book at strange moments of the day and pondering what really drives people to do things that others consider evil. **Katherine Robinson**



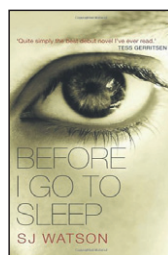
The Dispatcher

Before I Go To Sleep

S J Watson Doubleday

S J Watson's debut novel *Before I Go To Sleep* is a thriller that will make you constantly ask yourself if you still have time to read a couple more pages. The novel's protagonist,

Christine, is a woman with a problem: as a result of an earlier car accident, every time she wakes up she has no memory. The problem also means that she faces the daily trauma of waking up in bed next to a man called Ben (her husband) with a wedding ring on her finger! Edmund Nash is the doctor in charge of this curious patient, but Christine's true ally is her journal, which she reads every day. The twist begins when the first words in the journal are "Don't trust Ben". The amazing aspect here is that all the events take place in one day, because Christine's brain will erase her memory after 24 hours. The journal guides both Christine and the reader, answering one set of questions whilst giving rise to others. How much of Christine's journal notes are true when people around her tell her otherwise? It's a gripping novel, from which even the temptation of a few cañas on a terraza will not distract you. No wonder the book is being translated into more than 30 languages, and the film rights have been bought by Ridley Scott. **Gullemo Uilbarr**

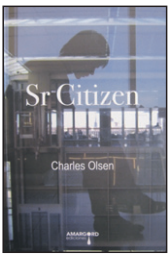


Before I Go To Sleep

Sr Citizen

Charles Olsen Amargord

As the title would suggest, Charles Olsen's latest collection of poems explores what it means to be a citizen of Madrid. Born in New Zealand, Olsen moved to England in the early eighties, and then to Spain in 2003. The title is reflective of the sense of disconnection that Olsen feels at living in a foreign country, but how simultaneously he has learnt to appreciate the country's charm. The poems, written in Spanish and presented in English too, are testament to Olsen's sensitivity to Spanish culture and the nuances of its language. There's a great variety of subject matter, but they all share a common theme of a love for Madrid and its resi-



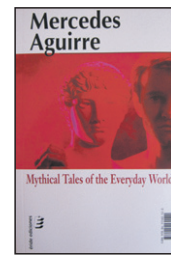
Sr Citizen

dents. Poems such as *Urban Landscape* and *Street Portraits* have the city's idiosyncratic *barrios* as their theme, whereas *I Won't Call* and *I Wait* are about Olsen's emotional experiences. It is hugely difficult to write prose, let alone poetry, in a language that is not one's mother tongue, and yet Olsen manages to string together some beautiful and evocative phrases about what it really means to be a citizen of Madrid. The text is accompanied by Olsen's photographs, sketches, drawings and paintings, making it a charming volume. **Harriet Smart**

Mythical Tales of the Everyday World

Mercedes Aguirre Éride ediciones

Aguirre's latest work is a collection of short stories with echoes of classical mythology, a field in which she specialises. She employs remarkable ingenuity and originality, making the tales more than just a straightforward reproduction of classical models. Popular locations so often used in mythology, such as Argos, Athena or Troy, are cunningly transposed to the urban landscapes of romantic Madrid, gritty Bilbao or glamorous Los Angeles. The themes are undoubtedly contemporary, but also recognisable as issues with which classical heroes grapple. One can draw a parallel between the complexities of sexuality in *The Race*, set in Madrid in 2006AD, and the relationship between Iante and Iphis in Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, set in Rome in 8AD. Another allusion is to the struggle of women to assert their own identity in a male-dominated world, which is apparent in *The Quest* and *Let Me Die For You*. Aguirre has skillfully updated her theme to create an innovative, engaging, and entertaining collection. The book is a bilingual edition, with the Spanish originals translated into English by Richard Buxton. **Harriet Smart**



Mythical Tales of the Everyday World