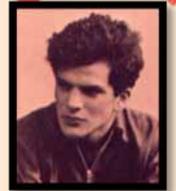


FIVE FACTS ABOUT A WORLD BETWEEN US



1. A WORLD BETWEEN US had quite a lot of different names along the way. For a long time it was called HEART OF THE HEARTLESS WORLD after the poem by John Cornford, and very briefly NO REWARDS, a quotation from the journalist Martha Gellhorn who went to Madrid with her lover Ernest Hemingway. When Hot Key bought the book it was called A DARKER SHADE OF RED. I didn't know how glad I'd be not to have the word 'shade' in the title.

2. John Cornford (right) neither features in the book, nor did he inspire any particular character, but he haunted my writing. He was killed near Lopera near the beginning of the war on his 21st birthday.



3. I had no idea that one of the books I most loved as a child, MY FRIEND MR LEAKEY, was written by the Marxist scientist JBS Haldane who was a huge supporter of the Republicans in the Spanish Civil War: his wife Charlotte was the 'Rita' whom Felix meets in Paris, where she processed volunteers. (In 1937 she took the black American singer Paul Robeson to Spain where he sang for the troops.) Her son Ronnie was 16 when he joined the International Brigades and was wounded at the Battle of Jarama. I'll never forget Mr Leakey's advice to eat mangos in the bath or the story of his indestructible collar stud.

4. The colourful propaganda posters in Spain made a huge impression on British volunteers and they were the inspiration for the cover design of A WORLD BETWEEN US

5. Crying in the library: I did it, a lot. Quite quietly, I hope.

Lydia Syson, October 2012

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HOT
KEY
BOOKS

