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PART I

Introduction

TIMELINE

- 1960** Harold Macmillan ‘Winds of Change’ speech, Cape Town, South Africa
John F. Kennedy elected as US President
Aged six, Kazuo Ishiguro arrives in Britain
- 1961** Adolf Eichmann on trial in Israel for role in Holocaust
Bay of Pigs: attempted invasion of Cuba
Berlin Wall constructed
Yuri Gagarin first person in Space
Silicon chip patented
Private Eye magazine begins publication
Muriel Spark, *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*
Jonathan Coe born
- 1962** Cuban Missile Crisis
Marilyn Monroe dies
Independence for Uganda; followed this decade by Kenya (1963), Northern Rhodesia (1964), Southern Rhodesia (1965), Barbados (1966)
- 1963** John F. Kennedy assassinated in Dallas
Martin Luther King Jr delivers ‘I Have a Dream’ speech
Profumo Affair

2 A.L. KENNEDY

- 1964** Nelson Mandela sentenced to life imprisonment
Commercial pirate radio challenges BBC monopoly
- 1965** State funeral of Winston Churchill
United States sends troops to Vietnam
22 October, A.L. Kennedy born, Dundee, Scotland
- 1966** Ian Brady and Myra Hindley sentenced to life imprisonment for Moors Murders
England beats West Germany 4–2 at Wembley to win Football World Cup
Star Trek series debut on NBC television
Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*
- 1967** Six-Day War in the Middle East
World's first heart transplant
Abortion Act legalises termination of pregnancy in United Kingdom
Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band album released by The Beatles
Flann O'Brien, *The Third Policeman*
Sexual Offences Act
- 1968** Anti-Vietnam War protestors attempt to storm American Embassy in Grosvenor Square
Martin Luther King Jr assassinated
Robert F. Kennedy assassinated
Student protests and riots in France
Lord Chamberlain's role as censor of plays in the United Kingdom is abolished
Lindsay Anderson, *If ...*
- 1969** Civil rights march in Northern Ireland attacked by Protestants
Apollo 11 lands on the Moon with Neil Armstrong's famous first steps
Rock concert at Woodstock
Yasser Arafat becomes leader of PLO
Booker Prize first awarded; winner P. H. Newby, *Something to Answer for*
Open University founded in the United Kingdom
John Fowles, *The French Lieutenant's Woman*

- 1970** Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) hijacks five planes
Students, activists and bystanders shot in anti-Vietnam War protest at Kent State University, Ohio, four killed, nine wounded
UK voting age reduced from 21 years to 18
- 1971** Decimal currency introduced in the United Kingdom
Internment without trial of terrorist suspects in Northern Ireland begins
India and Pakistan in conflict after Bangladesh declares independence
- 1972** Miners' strike
Bloody Sunday in Londonderry, 14 protestors killed outright or fatally wounded by British troops
Aldershot barracks bomb initiates IRA campaign with seven dead
Britain enters Common Market
Massacre of Israeli athletes at Munich Olympics
Watergate scandal
Anthony Burgess, *A Clockwork Orange*
Samuel Beckett, *Not I*
- 1973** US troops leave Vietnam
Arab–Israeli 15-day Yom Kippur War
PM Edward Heath introduces three-day working week
Martin Amis, *The Rachel Papers*
- 1974** Miners' strike
IRA bombings in Guildford (five dead) and Birmingham (21 dead)
- 1975** Microsoft founded
Sex Discrimination Act
Zadie Smith born in North London
Malcolm Bradbury, *The History Man*
- 1976** Weak economy forces UK government loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF)
Ian McEwan, *First Love, Last Rites*

- 1977** *Star Wars* released
UK unemployment tops 1,600,000
Nintendo begins to sell computer games
Sex Pistols 'Anarchy In the UK' tour
- 1978** Soviet troops occupy Afghanistan
First test-tube baby born in Oldham, England
Defeat of devolution bills for Scotland and Wales
- 1979** Iranian Revolution establishes Islamic theocracy
Margaret Thatcher becomes PM after Conservative election victory
Soviet Union invades Afghanistan
Lord Mountbatten assassinated by the IRA
Collapse of movement for devolution in Scotland, following the Referendum.
- 1980** Iran–Iraq War starts
Iranian Embassy siege in London
CND rally at Greenham Common airbase, England
IRA hunger strike at Belfast Maze Prison over political status for prisoners
Julian Barnes, *Metroland*
- 1981** Prince Charles and Lady Diana marry in St Paul's Cathedral with 750 million worldwide television audience
Widespread urban riots in United Kingdom including in Brixton, Holloway, Toxteth, Handsworth and Moss Side
AIDS identified
First IBM personal computer
Alasdair Gray, *Lanark*
Salman Rushdie, *Midnight's Children*, which wins Booker Prize for Fiction
- 1982** Mark Thatcher, PM's son, disappears for three days in Sahara during the Paris–Dakar rally
Falklands War with Argentina, costing the UK over £1.6 billion

Body of Roberto Calvi, chairman of Vatican-connected Banco Ambrosiano, found hanging beneath Blackfriars Bridge, London

- 1983** Klaus Barbie, Nazi war criminal, arrested in Bolivia
 Beirut: US Embassy and barracks bombing, killing hundreds of members of multinational peacekeeping force, mostly US marines
 US troops invade Grenada
 Microsoft Word first released
 Salman Rushdie, *Shame*, which wins Prix du Meilleur Livre Etranger (France)
 A.L. Kennedy commences BA in Theatre Studies and Drama at Warwick University
Granta literary magazine publishes their first 'Best of Young British Novelists' list, featuring, amongst others, Martin Amis, Julian Barnes, Kazuo Ishiguro, Ian McEwan, Salman Rushdie and Graham Swift
- 1984** Miners' strike
 HIV identified as cause of AIDS
 IRA bomb at Conservative Party Conference in Brighton kills four
 British Telecom privatisation shares sale
 Thirty-eight deaths during clashes at Liverpool v. Juventus football match at Heysel Stadium, Brussels
 Martin Amis, *Money: A Suicide Note*
 Julian Barnes, *Flaubert's Parrot*
 James Kelman, *Busconductor Hines*
 Graham Swift, *Waterland*
- 1985** Famine in Ethiopia and Live Aid concert
 Damage to ozone layer discovered
 Mikhail Gorbachev becomes Soviet Premier and introduces *glasnost* (openness with the West) and *perestroika* (economic restructuring)
 PC Blakelock murdered during riots on Broadwater Farm estate in Tottenham, London

My Beautiful Laundrette film released (dir. Stephen Frears, screenplay Hanif Kureishi)
Jeanette Winterson, *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit*

1986 Abolition of Greater London Council and other metropolitan county councils in England
Violence between police and protestors at Wapping, East London after Rupert Murdoch sacks 5000 print workers
Challenger shuttle explodes
Chernobyl nuclear accident
United States bombs Libya
Peter Ackroyd, *Hawksmoor*

1987 Capsizing of RORO ferry, *Herald of Free Enterprise*, off Zeebrugge kills 193 people
London Stock Exchange and market collapse on 'Black Monday'
Remembrance Sunday: 11 killed by Provisional IRA bomb in Enniskillen
Ian McEwan, *The Child in Time*, which wins Whitbread Novel Award
Jeanette Winterson, *The Passion*

1988 United States shoots down Iranian passenger flight
Pan Am flight 103 bombed over Lockerbie, 270 people killed
Soviet troop withdrawals from Afghanistan begin
Salman Rushdie, *The Satanic Verses*

1989 Fatwa issued against Rushdie by Iranian leadership (Khomeini)
Fall of Berlin Wall
Exxon Valdez oil disaster
Student protestors massacred in Tiananmen Square, Beijing
Hillsborough Stadium disaster in which 96 football fans die
Kazuo Ishiguro, *The Remains of the Day*, which wins Booker Prize for Fiction
Jeanette Winterson, *Sexing the Cherry*

- 1990** London poll tax riots
 Fall of Thatcher; John Major becomes Conservative PM
 Nelson Mandela freed from jail
 Jeanette Winterson adapts *Oranges* for BBC television film
 A.S. Byatt, *Possession*
 Hanif Kureishi, *The Buddha of Suburbia*, which wins Whitbread First Novel Prize
 A.L. Kennedy, *Night Geometry and the Garscadden Trains* (wins Scottish Arts Council Book Award, Saltire Best First Book Award and Mail on Sunday/John Llewellyn Rhys Prize in 1991)
- 1991** Soviet Union collapses
 First Iraq War with 12-day Operation Desert Storm
 Apartheid ended in South Africa
 PM Major negotiates opt-out for Britain from European Monetary Union and rejects Social Chapter of Maastricht Treaty
 Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) helps create the World Wide Web
 Hanif Kureishi: screenplays for *Sammy and Rosie Get Laid* and *London Kills Me*
 Pat Barker, *Regeneration*
- 1992** 'Black Wednesday' stock market crisis when United Kingdom forced to exit European Exchange Rate Mechanism
 Adam Thorpe, *Ulverton*
- 1993** Black teenager Stephen Lawrence murdered in Well Hall Road, London
 With Downing Street Declaration, PM John Major and Taoiseach Albert Reynolds commit Britain and Ireland to joint Northern Ireland resolution
 Film of Ishiguro's *The Remains of the Day*, starring Anthony Hopkins and Emma Thompson
 Irvine Welsh, *Trainspotting*
 A.L. Kennedy *Looking for the Possible Dance* (wins Scottish Arts Council Book Award and Somerset Maugham Award); also writes *The Audition* (play, winner of Edinburgh

Festival Fringe First) and *Totally Out of It* (BBC Education TV drama)

Kennedy included on *Granta's* second 'Best of Young British Novelists' list, alongside Louis de Bernieres, Alan Hollinghurst, Hanif Kureishi, Jeanette Winterson and others.

1994 Tony Blair elected leader of Labour Party following death of John Smith

Channel Tunnel opens

Nelson Mandela elected President of South Africa

Provisional IRA and loyalist paramilitary cease-fire

Homosexual age of consent for men in the United Kingdom lowered to 18

Mike Newell (dir.), *Four Weddings and a Funeral*

Jonathan Coe, *What a Carve Up!*

Irvine Welsh, *The Acid House*

A. L. Kennedy, *Now That You're Back*; also writes *Just to Say* (BBC Education TV drama) and *The Year of the Prince* (BBC Education Historical TV series)

James Kelman's *How Late It Was, How Late* becomes first Scottish novel to win the Booker Prize

1995 Oklahoma City bombing

Srebrenica massacre during Bosnian War

Pat Barker, *The Ghost Road*

Nicholas Hytner (dir.), *The Madness of King George*

Hanif Kureishi, *The Black Album*

A. L. Kennedy, *So I Am Glad* (wins Scottish Arts Council Book Award, Saltire Best Book Award and Encore Award; shortlisted for the MacVitie Prize); also writes *There's an End to an Auld Sang* (BBC Education Historical TV series), *Delicate* (performance piece for Motionhouse dance company) and *Ghostdancing* (BBC TV drama/documentary)

1996 Cases of Bovine Spongiform Encephalitis (Mad Cow Disease) in the United Kingdom

Divorce of Charles and Diana

Breaching cease-fire, Provisional IRA bombs London's Canary Wharf and Central Manchester
 Film of Irvine Welsh's *Trainspotting* (dir. Danny Boyle), starring Ewan McGregor and Robert Carlyle
 Graham Swift, *Last Orders*, which wins Booker Prize
 A.L. Kennedy is Booker Prize judge

1997 Tony Blair becomes Labour PM after landslide victory
 September: Referendums establish the Scottish Parliament (and Welsh Assembly)
 Princess Diana dies in Paris car crash
 Hong Kong returned to China by United Kingdom
 Jim Crace, *Quarantine*
 Jonathan Coe, *The House of Sleep*, which wins Prix Médicis Etranger (France)
 Ian McEwan, *Enduring Love*
 Iain Sinclair and Marc Atkins, *Lights Out for the Territory*
 A.L. Kennedy, *The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp* and *Original Bliss*

1998 Good Friday Agreement on Northern Ireland and Northern Ireland Assembly established
 Twenty-eight people killed by splinter group Real IRA bombing in Omagh
 Sonny Bono Act extends copyright to lifetime plus 70 years
 BFI/Channel 4 film *Stella Does Tricks*, released (screenplay A.L. Kennedy)
 Julian Barnes, *England, England*

1999 Euro currency adopted
 Macpherson Inquiry into Stephen Lawrence murder accuses London's Metropolitan Police of institutional racism
 NATO bombs Serbia over Kosovo crisis
 Welsh Assembly and Scottish Parliament both open
 Thirty-one passengers killed in Ladbroke Grove train disaster
 A.L. Kennedy, *Everything You Need* (wins Scottish Arts Council Book Award, long listed for Orange Prize); also

publishes *On Bullfighting*, edits *New Writing 9*, writes and presents *For the Love of Burns* (BBC TV arts documentary)

- 2000** Anti-globalisation protest and riots in London
Hauliers and farmers blockade oil refineries in fuel price protest in the United Kingdom
Kazuo Ishiguro, *When We Were Orphans*
Will Self, *How the Dead Live*
Zadie Smith, *White Teeth*
A.L. Kennedy made Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts; writes *True (Requiem for Lucy Palmer)*, (performance project for Fierce Productions/ Tramway Theatre)
- 2001** 9/11 Al-Qaeda attacks on World Trade Center and Pentagon
Bombing and invasion of Afghanistan
Riots in Oldham, Leeds, Bradford, and Burnley, Northern England
Labour Party under Blair re-elected to government
Ian McEwan, *Atonement*
- 2002** Queen Mother dies aged 101
Rowan Williams named next Archbishop of Canterbury
Bali terrorist bomb kills 202 people and injures a further 209
Inquiry concludes English general practitioner Dr Harold Shipman killed around 215 patients
Zadie Smith's *White Teeth* adapted for Channel 4 television broadcast in autumn
A.L. Kennedy, *Indelible Acts*; also *Dice II* (with John Burnside, TV drama series for CBC and Cite Amerique) and *Born a Fox* (radio play for BBC Radio 4)
A.L. Kennedy is judge of Orange Prize for Fiction
- 2003** Invasion of Iraq and fall of Saddam Hussein
Death of UK government scientist Dr David Kelly, and Hutton Inquiry
Worldwide threat of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)

A.L. Kennedy chosen for *Granta's* third 'Best of Young British Novelists' issue alongside Monica Ali, Toby Litt, Zadie Smith, Sarah Waters and others

- 2004** BBC Director General Greg Dyke steps down over Kelly affair
 Bombings in Madrid kill 190 people and injure over 1700
 Expansion of NATO to include seven ex-Warsaw Pact countries
 European Union expands to 25 countries as eight ex-communist states join
 Jonathan Coe, *Like a Fiery Elephant: The Story of B. S. Johnson*
 Alan Hollinghurst, *The Line of Beauty*, which wins Booker Prize for Fiction
 Andrea Levy, *Small Island*, which wins Orange Prize for Fiction
 A.L. Kennedy, *Paradise*; also writes *Like an Angel* (radio play for BBC Radio 4)
- 2005** United Kingdom ban on foxhunting with dogs comes into force
 7/7 London suicide bombings on transport system kill 52 and injure over 700 commuters in morning rush hour
 Hurricane Katrina kills at least 1836 people and floods devastate New Orleans
 After four failed bombings are detected, Brazilian Jean Charles de Menezes is shot and killed by Metropolitan Police officers at Stockwell Underground Station
 Ian McEwan, *Saturday*
 Zadie Smith, *On Beauty*, which wins 2006 Orange Prize for Fiction
- 2006** Jeanette Winterson awarded the OBE
 Airline terror plot thwarted, causes major UK airline delays
 Israel–Hezbollah war in Lebanon
 Five prostitutes killed in Ipswich in a six-week period

12 A.L. KENNEDY

Saddam Hussein executed by hanging in controversial circumstances

A.L. Kennedy's one-woman stand-up show, 'Feel the Love', at Stand Two in Edinburgh, throughout August.

2007 A.L. Kennedy, *Day*

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