

extraordinary young woman and the triumph of her spirit against huge odds.



Before The Rains

by Dinah Jefferies (out on February 23) (Viking, £12.99)

From the best-selling author of *The Tea Planter's Wife* comes another journey into a colourful world. In 1930, the British Government sends

Eliza Fraser to the fictional Indian state of Juraipore to photograph the Royal Family and local life. Eliza's developing friendship with the prince's brother Jay leads them both to discover more about the country and the iniquities of British rule. However, there are many opposed to their growing closeness and eventually they must choose between the traditions binding Jay or whether to follow their feelings. Packed with colour, history,

atmosphere and plenty of twists and turns, this is a lush, escapist read.



This Is How It Always Is

by Laurie Frankel (Headline Review, £16.99)

This heart-warming novel explores life with a transgender child. Rosie Walsh, a doctor, and writer Penn Adams have five sons but long for a daughter. Then their

fifth son Claude turns three and announces that he wants to be a girl. Although Rosie and Penn are unsure what to do, they support his decision and Claude becomes Poppy. But when Poppy goes out into the world, the family's journey takes unexpected and difficult turns. Written with wry humour and compassion, this is a personal story of parenting, love and understanding.

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