Birdsong – A05

Guardian article by John Mullan:
- "death comes so thick that the narrative cannot pause for individuals."
- "The soldiers at the front have learnt to not be shocked, not even to be emotional, at any particular person’s death,"
- "Tens of thousands of men simply go missing,"
- "a manipulation of the reader’s sympathies."
- "anyone can die at any moment."
- "The novelist painfully manipulates the reader’s emotions."

Radio 5 interview with Sebastian Faulks:
- "suffocating reality"
- "they thought it would all be over by tea time"
- "there seemed to be some sort of block in people’s memories about it"
- "particularly futile"

Alcohol and the First World War article:
- "In August 1914 Tsar Nicholas II outlawed the production and sale of vodka."
- "In October 1915 the British government announced several measures they believed would reduce alcohol consumption."
- "The maximum penalty for defying the Government order was six months’ imprisonment."
- "Public House opening times in cities and industrial areas were also reduced."
- "The advertising of alcohol in the area was banned."

The Dying Kiss: Gender and Intimacy in the Trenches of World War 1 article:
- "men nursed and fed their friends when ill; they bathed together; they held each other as they danced, and during the long winter months, wrapped blankets around each other."
- "Many returned soldiers carried with them photographs of their dead comrades or small items that belonged to them;"

From Civilian to First World War Soldier:
- "The Army was unprepared for the stampede of volunteers wanting to fight."
- "in the early nineteen hundred and fourteen, a blue ensign often turned to official standards:"
- "Within eight weeks nearly 750,000 men had enlisted."
- "Men from every walk of life,"
- "For many it was their first time away from home."
- "others were made to wait many weeks before they received any uniform at all,"
- "second lieutenants, were often only teenagers."

The real story of the Christmas truce article:
- "The following day, British and German soldiers met in no man’s land and exchanged gifts, took photographs and some played impromptu games of football."
- "casualties did occur on Christmas Day. Some officers were unhappy at the truce and worried that it would undermine fighting spirit."
- "High commands on both sides tried to prevent any truces on a similar scale happening again."
- "there were some isolated incidents of soldiers holding brief truces later in the war."
- "brief pauses in the hostilities were sometimes tacitly agreed, allowing both sides to repair their trenches or gather their dead."