

2017

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DARE TO REMEMBER BY SUSANNA BEARD



ISBN (Print): 9781785079115 ISBN (Ebook): 9781785079108 Published: 1st February 2017 Price: £8.99 (print), £3.99 (ebook) Extent: 288 pages Format: 198x129 paperback original Rights available: World English Reeling from a brutal attack that leaves her flatmate dead and her badly injured, Lisa Fulbrook flees to the countryside to recuperate. With only vague memories of the event, she isolates herself from her friends and family, content to spend her days wandering the hills with her dog, Riley.

However, Lisa is soon plagued, not only by vivid flashbacks, but questions, too: how did their assailant know them? Why were they attacked? And what really happened that night?

As she desperately tries to piece together the memories, Lisa realises that there's another truth still hidden to her, a truth she can't escape from. A truth that may have been right in front of her all along'

Perfect for fans of Sophie Hannah, Alex Marwood, Liane Moriarty, Debbie Howells and Ruth Ware

FEBRUARY 2017



A bit about the author...

Susanna Beard was part of 2015 Faber Academy Anthology. She studied Linguistics before embarking on a career in PR and marketing. She has helped a multitude of clients

promote everything from tourist destinations to Californian wine to cuddly toys. This is her first novel.

- A gripping, commercial crime novel with elements of psychological suspense.
- Proactive author who works in PR.
- The novel traces the shocking impact on a young woman of what starts as an ordinary night out with friends.
 For Lisa, the physical, psychological and moral consequences of the tragic events of that evening are lifechanging.

THE SONG OF THE STORK

MARCH 2017



A bit about the author...

Stephan Collishaw was brought up on a Nottingham council estate and failed all of his O'levels. His first novel The Last Girl (2003) was chosen by the Independent on Sunday as one of its Novels of the Year. In 2004 Stephan was selected as one of the British Council's 20 best young British novelists. His brother is the renowned artist, Mat Collishaw. Stephan now works as a teacher in Nottingham, having also lived and worked abroad in Lithuania and Mallorca, where his son Lukas was born.

Follow Stephan on Twitter @scollishaw

Key Selling Points:

- After a 10-year writing hiatus, The Song of the Stork is Stephan's highly anticipated third novel.
- Author was named by the British Council as one of 20 best young British Novelists in 2004.
- A love story and a coming-of-age tale about a young woman finding her voice as around her the voices of her community are extinguished.

Fifteen year old Yael is on the run. The Jewish girl seeks shelter from the Germans on the farm of the village outcast. Aleksei is mute and solitary, but as the brutal winter advances, he reluctantly takes her in and a delicate relationship develops.

As her feelings towards Aleksei change, the war intrudes and Yael is forced to join a Jewish partisan group fighting in the woods.

Torn apart and fighting for her life, The Song of the Stork is Yael's story of love, hope and survival. It is the story of one woman finding a voice as the voices around her are extinguished.

Praise for Stephan:

' tense, vivid, effortlessly real... a novel of dramatic width and ambition [which] encompasses passion, morality, history and art' Julie Myerson, The Guardian

'Wonderful ... that rare novel which no-one, having once read, will be able to forget' Alan Sillitoe

'Haunting ... has an extraordinary ring of authenticity... fascinating Washington Times

'It has energy and it has assurance, and the story is really powerful. Collishaw has a great gift for showing the dailiness of terrible times' Helen Dunmore

THE SONG OF THE STORK STEPHAN COLLISHAW

ISBN (Print): 9781785079191 ISBN (Ebook): 9781785079184 Published: 1st March 2017 Price: £8.99 (print), £3.99 (ebook) Extent: 204 pages Format: 198x129 paperback original Rights available: World English

DANGEROUS TO KNOW



ISBN (Print): 9781785079429 ISBN (Ebook): 9781785079436 Published: 15th March 2017 Price: £8.99 (print), £3.99 (ebook) Extent: 288 pages Format: 198x129 paperback original Rights available: UK & Ireland



Natalie King is back: back from a stay on the psych ward. Her reluctance to live a quiet life has contributed to a severe depressive episode, and now it's time for a retreat to the country, and a low-key research job at a provincial university nearby.

But Natalie and trouble have a strange mutual fascination. Her charismatic new boss Frank is friendly, even attractive. But it turns out his pregnant wife is an old enemy of Natalie's. And when Frank's tragic personal history is revealed – then reprised in the most shocking way – Natalie finds herself drawn deep into a mystery. And even deeper into danger.

Praise for Anne:

 'A thrilling read that will have you on the edge of your seat 'Buzzfeed 'Keeps the reader guessing to the very last page' Lisa Hall
 'A plot-twisting page-turner... I was completely gripped' Emma Healey 'An intelligent, well-paced thriller' Adrian McKinty

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A bit about the author...

Anne Buist is the Chair of Women's Mental Health at the University of Melbourne and has over 25 years clinical and research experience in perinatal psychiatry working on cases of abuse, kidnapping, infanticide and murder.

Anne has published ten erotic romancesuspense novels under the pseudonym Simone Sinna. She is married to novelist Graeme Simsion and has two children.

Follow Anne on Twitter @anneebuist

Key Selling Points:

- Fast-paced psychological crime thriller, a commercial read.
- Writing inspired by the author's background in perinatal psychiatry and infanticide.
- High profile author who has appeared at Cheltenham Book Festival.
- Part of a two book acquisition deal from Australian publisher, Text Publishing.



MARCH 2017

THE MAGICIAN'S LIE BY GREER MACALLISTER



ISBN (Print): 9781787199965 ISBN (Ebook): 9781787199972 Published: 3rd April 2017 Price: £14.99 (hardback), £8.99 (ebook) Extent: 320 pages Format: 144x222 Hardback Rights available: UK and Ireland The Amazing Arden is the most famous female illusionist of her day, renowned for her notorious trick of sawing a man in half on stage. But one night she swaps her trademark saw for an axe.

When Arden's husband is found dead later that night, the answer seems clear, most of all to young policeman Virgil Holt.

Captured and taken into custody, all seems set for Arden's swift confession. But she has a different story to tell. Even handcuffed and alone, Arden is far from powerless, and what she reveals is as unbelievable as it is spellbinding.

'A well-paced, evocative, and adventurous historical novel' Publishers Weekly

'This is a book in which storylines twist, spiral and come together again in an ending as explosive as a poof of smoke from your chimney.' Oprah.com

'Smart, intricately plotted...a richly imagined thriller.' PEOPLE magazine

'A captivating yarn... Macallister, like the Amazing Arden, mesmerizes her audience. No sleight of hand is necessary. An ambitious heroine and a captivating tale are all the magic she needs.' Washington Post

'This debut novel is historical fiction that blends magic, mystery, and romance.' Boston Globe, Pick of the Week

APRIL 2017



A bit about the author...

Raised in the Midwest, Greer Macallister is a poet, short story writer, playwright and novelist. Her plays have been performed at American University, where she earned her MFA in Creative Writing. Her debut novel THE MAGICIAN'S LIE was a USA Today and MIBA Indie bestseller, an Indie Next, LibraryReads, and Target Book Club Pick, and was chosen by guest judge Whoopi Goldberg as a Book of the Month Club main selection. It has been optioned for film by Jessica Chastain's Freckle Films.

Follow Greer on Twitter @theladygreer

- Water for Elephants meets The Night Circus.
- A debut novel in which the country's most notorious female illusionist stands accused of her husband's murder - and she has only one night to convince a small-town policeman of her innocence.

BLAME BY PAUL READ





ISBN (Print): 9781785079214 ISBN (Ebook): 9781785079207 Published: 15th April 2017 Price: £8.99 (print), £3.99 (ebook) Extent: 288 pages Format: 198x129 paperback original Rights available: World



It is the summer of 1989 when Lucas witnesses an event that will tear his family apart. Over a decade later, his estranged father succumbs to a suspected heart attack.

Lucas shuns grief and escapes to New York with his colleague Mariana. However, a dark secret from his past threatens to re-emerge and destroy the burgeoning relationship before it has even begun.

When his father's girlfriend fails to reappear after reporting his death, the true cause of his demise falls under scrutiny. And as the startling truth comes to light, Lucas must confront the fact that father and son may not have been so different after all.

'A superb debut... gritty, disturbing and pacy.' Alex Lake, author of After Anna



A bit about the author...

After gaining a first in Fine Art at the Kent Institute of Art and Design at Canterbury, Paul Read moved to London and became a teacher. He has worked in several innercity schools as an Art, English and supply teacher, both in England and Italy. He received a distinction from City University London for his creative writing MA.

A few years ago, Paul was involved in a hit-and-run incident which put him in a wheelchair for several months and was where he wrote the first draft of The Art Teacher. He lives with Patricia and their two children.

Follow him on Twitter: @paulreadauthor

Key Selling Points:

- A fast-paced, topical and powerful novel, following the author's debut *The Art Teacher* (2016).
- A story of layers, secrets, guilt and acceptance.

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THE LIES WITHIN BY JANE ISAAC



ISBN (Print): 9781785079276 ISBN (Ebook): 9781785079269 Published: 2nd May 2017 Price: £8.99 (print), £3.99 (ebook) Extent: 204 pages Format: 198x129 paperback original Rights available: World Be under no illusions by her kind face and eloquent manner... This woman is guilty of murder.

Grace Bannister is distraught after her daughter's body is found in a Leicestershire country lane. With her family falling apart and the investigation going nowhere, Grace's only solace is the re-emergence of Faye, an old friend who seems to understand her loss.

DI Will Jackman delves into the case, until a family tragedy and a figure from his past threaten to derail him.

When the police discover another victim, the spotlight falls on Grace. Can Jackman find the killer, before she is convicted of a crime she didn't commit?

'A very convincing police procedural with the delectable DI Will Jackman at the helm.' Louise Voss

'My kind of book. Jane Isaac writes with real confidence and attention to detail. An enjoyable and authentic British police procedural.' Mari Hannah

'Perfect for fans of Agatha Christie, Patricia Cornwall and Gillian Flynn.' Mari Ellis Dunning



Other books by the author: The Truth Will Out (2014) Before It's Too Late (2015) Beneath the Ashes (2016)

May 2017



A bit about the author...

Jane Isaac lives with her husband, daughter and dog, Bollo, in rural Northamptonshire.

Her first novel, An Unfamiliar Murder, was published in the US in 2012 and nominated as best mystery in the 'eFestival of Words Best of the Independent eBook awards 2013'.

The Truth Will Out, was selected 'Crime Thriller of the Month by E'Thriller.com and 'Noveltunity Book Club Winning Selection.

Key Selling Points:

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- Hotly-anticipated new crime novel from one of the UK's premier writers.
- Commercial police procedural novel, following Beneath the Ashes (2016).
- Intense and gripping narrative style, perfect for fans of Gillian Flynn, S.J. Watson and Sophie Hannah.
- Pro-active author, with extensive online following within the crime community.

THE TEACHER'S SECRET



ISBN (Print): 9781785079078 ISBN (Ebook): 9781785079085 Published: 15th May 2017 Price: f18.99 (print), f8.99 (ebook) Extent: 288 pages Format: Hardback Rights available: UK & Commonwealth (excluding Aus & NZ) A small town can be a refuge, but while its secrets are held, it's hard to know who to trust and what to believe.

The Teacher's Secret is a tender and compelling story of scandal, rumour and dislocation, and the search for grace and dignity in the midst of dishonour and humiliation.

Only one person knows the truth

'Suspenseful, moving and full of heart. I couldn't put it down.' Richard Glover

' a delicately woven tapestry of interlinking stories a big-hearted book about a small community' Joanne Fedler

Praise for Border Street

'Utterly engrossing and moving . . . An exquisitely poised and intelligent unveiling of secrets.' Gail Jones

'A book that looms closer with every page... By the end, you start seeing the characters on the street, and you hear their voices in your sleep.' Markus Zusak

'Elegantly structured, unsettling, yet with moments of surprising wit. Leal captures the life of a small community with real tenderness.' Kathryn Heyman

MAY 2017



A bit about the author...

Suzanne Leal is a lawyer experienced in child protection, criminal law and refugee law. A former legal commentator on ABC Radio, Suzanne is a regular interviewer at Sydney Writers' Festival and other literary functions. She has been a judge for the NSW Premier's Literary Awards and for 'The Nib' Waverley Library Award for Literature. *The Teacher's Secret* is her first novel published in the UK.

Suzanne lives in Sydney with her husband, David, and her four children, Alex, Dominic, Xavier and Miranda.

- Stunning Australian novel (originally published by Text Publishing), exploring the good and evil in a school.
- Perfect for fans of *The Slap* by Christos Tsiolkas, *Big Little Lies* by Liane Moriarty and *A Song for Issy Bradley* by Carys Bray.

DARK CHAPTER BY WINNIE M LI



ISBN (Print): 9781785079047 ISBN (Ebook): 9781785079054 Published: 1st June 2017 (Hardback) 1st Nov 2017 (Paperback - 9781785079061) Price: f18.99 (Hardback), f8.99 (ebook) Extent: 288 pages Rights available: UK and Commonwealth (Excluding Canada) Vivian is a cosmopolitan Taiwanese-American tourist who often escapes her busy life in London through adventure and travel. Johnny is a 15-yearold Irish teenager, living a neglected life on the margins of society.

On a bright spring afternoon in West Belfast, their paths collide during a horrifying act of violence.

In the aftermath, each is forced to confront the chain of events that led to the attack.

Inspired by true events, this is a story of the dark chapters and chance encounters that can irrevocably determine the shape of our lives.

'Deftly written, pacey and unflinching, I could not put it down. Winnie Li is a rare talent with an explosive and timely story. Do not miss it.' Marti Leimbach, bestselling author of Dying Young and Daniel Isn't Talking

> Highly Commended for the CWA Debut Dagger 2015 Longlisted for SI Leeds Literary Prize Shortlisted for the Emma Humphreys Memorial Prize Shortlisted for the Pat Kavanagh Prize 2015

June 2017



A bit about the author...

Winnie M Li is a writer and producer, who has worked in three continents. A Harvard graduate, she has written for travel guide books, produced independent feature films, programmed for film festivals, and developed eco-tourism projects. After graduating with Distinction in Creative Writing at Goldsmiths, she now writes across a range of media (including a column for The Huffington Post), runs arts festivals, and is a PhD researcher at LSE. Winnie lives in London, yet is somewhat addicted to travel.

Follow Winnie on Twitter at @winniemli or online at winniemli.com.

- Hard-hitting debut novel inspired by the author's own experiences of rape. Winnie is an activist in creating awareness on the topic.
- Upmarket psychological thriller
- Bold, powerful, and above all human
- Novel to be published in North American (Polis Books), Sweden (Norstedts) & Holland (HarperCollins)

SKYLARKING



ISBN (Print): 9781785079238 ISBN (Ebook): 9781785079238 Published: 3rd July 2017 Price: £8.99 (print), £3.99 (ebook) Extent: 288 pages Format: Paperback original Rights available: UK & Ireland Kate and Harriet are best friends growing up together on an isolated Australian cape. As the daughters of the lighthouse keepers, the two girls share everything, until a fisherman, McPhail, arrives in their small community.

When Kate witnesses the desire that flares between him and Harriet, she is torn by her feelings of envy and longing. An innocent moment in McPhail's hut then occurs that threatens to tear their peaceful community apart.

Inspired by a true story, Skylarking is a spellbinding tale of friendship and desire, memory and truth, which questions what it is to remember and how tempting it can be to forget.

'a strikingly real and deeply moving meditation on adolescent friendship... The bush comes alive; one can almost hear the sound of the crickets on a hot evening... a heart-wrenching work.' Olga Lorenzo

'A brave, beautiful and richly textured book which delicately explores the fault lines in love and friendship, revealing their thrill and loveliness as well as their darker sides: jealousy and heartbreaking regret.' Lucy Treloar

'An impressive debut novel filled with the light and air of its rugged coastal setting... powerful evocation of a passionate, intense relationship between two young women just before the turn of the twentieth century.' Emily Bitto, Winner of the Stella Prize

JULY 2017



A bit about the author...

Kate Mildenhall is a writer and education project officer, who currently works at the State Library of Victoria. As a teacher, she has worked in schools, at RMIT University and has volunteered with Teachers Across Borders in Cambodia.

Skylarking is her debut novel. She discovered the story while on a camping trip and she wishes for more such fruitful adventures. She lives with her husband and two young daughters in Hurstbridge, Victoria.

Follow Kate on Twitter @katemildenhall

- Stunning Australian novel (originally published by Text Publishing in AUS).
- Perfect for fans of Geraldine Brooks, Margaret Atwood, Sarah Waters and Hannah Kent.
- Skylarking takes the terrible events of a true story and imagines the lives and heads and hearts of the people involved.



2016

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FRACTURED BY CLÁR NÍ CHONGHAILE

Clar provides access to the beating hearts on all sides of terror that even our best journalists can't reach...' Christopher Bollen, Author

FRACTUPED HELD HOSTAGE. EVERY SECOND COUNTS.

Competiing and relentless... page-turner of a novel. Damien Lewis, Bestselling Author and Reporter

A NOVEL

This is a layered, textured, wholehearted novel that will stay with me for a long time. Léan Cullinan, Author

CLÁR NÍ CHONGHAILE

A turbulent journey to the world's most forgotten corners... Celeste Hicks, Author and former BBC Journalist

ISBN (Print): 9781785079825 ISBN (Ebook): 9781785079832 Published: 1st February 2016 Price: £8.99 (print), £3.99 (ebook) Extent: 256 pages Format: 198x129 paperback original Rights available: World Peter Maguire has been kidnapped in Somalia's capital, Mogadishu. He does not know where he is or what is going to happen to him. The journalist is filled with fear and, as the days go by, this dread of the unknown is shot through with remorse for the mistakes of his past.

Peter's mother Nina comes to Somalia to wait for her son's release. His plight forces her to relive another trauma – the fatal shooting in Liberia of Shaun Ridge, a young photographer she once loved, and Peter's real father.

Abdi, a Somali teenager working with Peter's captors strikes a tenuous friendship with the prisoner based on a shared feeling of captivity. He decides to help Peter escape. Together, they set off into the barren vastness of a land filled with danger.

Three people must journey into one of the world's most dangerous places, the human mind, to answer the question: are we ever truly free?

'A turbulent journey to the world's most forgotten corners...' Celeste Hicks, Author and former BBC Journalist

'Compelling; relentless; visceral. A hugely-timely and incisive page-turner of a novel.' Damien Lewis, bestselling Author and Film maker

'Clár provides access to the beating hearts on all sides of terror that even our best journalists can't reach...' Christopher Bollen, Author

'Thrilling, thought-provoking and shot through with grim authenticity. A stunning debut.' Nick Brownlee, Journalist

"... elements of suspense and drama, it is Ní Chonghaile's investment in her characters that fills it with so much heart." Daniel Seery, Award-winning Author

FEBRUARY 2016





A bit about the author...

Clár has worked as a journalist for over 20 years and has lived in Madrid, Paris, the Ivory Coast, Senegal and Kenya. Whilst in Nairobi, she freelanced for the Guardian and travelled to Somalia to cover the African Union's battle against al Shabaab and the plight of thousands of displaced people.

Follow Clár on Twitter @clarnic

- Topical novel that will appeal to fans of Homeland and the podcast Serial
- Covers issues including Islamic fundamentalists, questions the motivations of extremists and deals with the theme of captivity, which unfortunately resonates all too clearly because of the increasingly frequent use of hostages for political purposes

WHEN WE WERE ALIVE BY C. J. FISHER



ISBN (Print): 9781785079900 ISBN (Ebook): 9781785079917 Published: 1st March 2016 Price: £8.99 (print), £3.99 (ebook) Extent: 240 pages Format: 198x129 paperback original Rights available: World When we first meet Bobby, he is a shy, twelve-year-old magician who falls in love with his best friend. William is consumed with self-hate and drinks to escape the memories of his father's sadness and his mother's death.

Myles is writing letters to a mother he has never met.

Three different people from three different times each explore the dark side of relationships, search for beauty in sadness and try to bear the burden of guilt from living in a world we are powerless to fix.

'My dream is that readers will fall in love with my flawed characters, and remember them long after the book has finished.' C. J. Fisher

Shortlisted for the Amazon Rising Stars

Debut novel from the Youtuber Ophelia Dagger (over 1 millon views to date)

'When We Were Alive is insightful, page-turning perfection. Its incredible vision is one you will want to discover for yourself.' Little Bookness Lane

'a powerful and hard hitting story that by the end proved to be an emotional read. ' By the Letter Book Reviews

'This novel is astonishing and will consume you from the very first sentence. It is poignantly written, deeply unsettling, heart-rending and terrifying all at the same time.' Her Nose Stuck in a Book

MARCH 2016



A bit about the author...

C.J. Fisher has a Master's Degree in Film from Exeter University, since graduating she has worked as a video editor, movie critic, social media manager, and creative content producer, as well as presenting talks on new media to charities and brands. C.J. vlogs as Ophelia Dagger, with over 30,000 subscribers on YouTube. When We Were Alive was inspired by events in her own life.

Visit C. J. at oldhotradio.com Follow C. J. on Twitter @opheliadagger

- C. J. Fisher is the real name of top UK book vlogger Ophelia Dagger, who has over 30,000 subscribers on YouTube.
 She is a dynamic, young female author with an active online presence
- When We Were Alive follows the perspectives of three characters from different generations struggling with what it means to truly live
- Covers topical themes including mental health and addiction

ARMADILLOS BY P. K. LYNCH



ISBN (Print): 9781785079597 ISBN (Ebook): 9781785079603 Published: 1st April 2016 Price: £8.99 (print), £3.99 (ebook) Extent: 272 pages Format: 198x129 paperback original Rights available: World English Aggie is fifteen, a 'sub' from a 'sub' family, one of Texas' downtrodden. Her father and brother enact that 'sub'-ness on her, week in, week out. She has only the vaguest notion that there is something wrong with the abuse she endures and instead dreams of the outside world.

And then one day, Aggie walks out, and like the armadillos that flourish in Texas' barren landscape, she is a survivor...

In her escape, she gravitates to those who are just as maltreated as her. They offer Aggie the sense of family, albeit a thoroughly dysfunctional one, that she's been searching for. But when she gets embroiled in a crisis involving stolen money, Aggie soon realises there are some problems you can't run away from.

'This is a debut that blazes like the Texas sky.' Joshua Mohr, Author

'... A raw, uneasy and beautiful read.' EK Reeder, Author

'... A brilliant first novel: pacy and un-put-downable. Reminding me of Catcher in the Rye, I wouldn't be surprised if it met with similar acclaim.' Vicky Feaver, Poet

'Armadillos, as the name suggests, has a tough, often shocking, carapace of violence and exploitation but at its core, through its complex and compelling characters, there is revealed a plangent melancholy and a warm beating heart.' Laura Marney, Author

WINNER OF THE SCEPTRE PRIZE FOR FICTION

APRIL 2016



A bit about the author...

Pauline trained as an actor and her first professional job was playing Lizzie in the film of Irvine Welsh's novel, Trainspotting.

After having a baby, Pauline completed her first stage play, Promise. Her second play, King of the Gypsies, played at the Edinburgh fringe, and then toured.

She then enrolled on the MLitt Creative Writing programme at Glasgow University where Armadillos was awarded the Sceptre Prize for Fiction.

Visit Pauline at lynchpinpauline.wordpress.com Follow Pauline on Twitter @lynchpinpauline

- A startling and gripping debut novel
- Pauline has a strong background in film and stage productions, both as an actress and a scriptwriter
- Contemporary literary/commercial crossover novel which tells the story of a teenage runaway as she attempts to escape memories of her abusive family and build a new life for herself.

THE WACKY MAN BY LYN G. FARRELL



ISBN (Print): 9781785079559 ISBN (Ebook): 9781785079566 Published: 2nd May 2016 Price: £8.99 (print), £3.99 (ebook) Extent: 224 pages Format: 198x129 paperback original Rights available: World My new shrink asks me, 'What things do you remember about being very young?' It's like looking into a murky river, I say. Memories flash near the surface like fish coming up for flies. The past peeps out, startles me, and then is gone...

Amanda secludes herself in her bedroom, no longer willing to face the outside world. Gradually, she pieces together the story of her life: her brothers have had to abandon her, her mother scarcely talks to her, and the Wacky Man could return any day to burn the house down. Just like he promised.

As her family disintegrates, Amanda hopes for a better future, a way out from the violence and fear that has consumed her childhood. But can she cling to her sanity, before insanity itself is her only means of escape?

Winner of the 2015 Luke Bitmead Bursary

'An astonishing tour de force!' The Daily Mail

'Brilliant from first page to last. My Book of the Year.' Clio Gray, Man Booker International and Baileys Prize-nominated author

'a visceral piece of realism.' Rob Ward, Brown University

'An ambitious, dark, searing debut novel... didn't let me go from page to raw, agonising, heart-wrenching page.' Mark O'Brien, MADE in Leeds

'An extraordinarily raw and powerful debut... Lyn Farrell is the most talented writer to burst into British fiction this year.' Annabel Abbs

MAY 2016



A bit about the author...

Lyn G. Farrell is the winner of the 2015 Luke Bitmead Bursary and The Wacky Man is her debut novel.

Lyn grew up in Lancashire where she would have gone to school if life had been different. She spent most of her teenage years reading anything she could get her hands on.

She studied Psychology at the University of Leeds and now works in the School of Education at Leeds Beckett University.

Follow Lyn on Twitter @FarrellWrites

- A raw, unflinching debut novel that journeys through one girl's abusive upbringing and the catastrophic effects this can have
- Winner of the 2015 Luke Bitmead Bursary

LINGUA FRANCA BY WILLIAM THACKER



ISBN (Print): 9781785079740 ISBN (Ebook): 9781785079757 Published: 16th May 2016 Price: £8.99 (print), £3.99 (ebook) Extent: 288 pages Format: 198x129 paperback original Rights available: World



There's a problem with Barrow, but it can be fixed. You just need to change the name to Birdseye. 'Birdseye-in-Furness...'

Miles Platting is pulled from the ruins of a shipwreck into a world in which no one will speak to him. The founder of Lingua Franca - a naming rights agency committed to renaming every UK town after a corporate sponsor – Miles recounts the story of his quest for linguistic supremacy to anyone who'll listen.

Confined to his hospital bed in a deathly quiet ward, Miles seeks to find his colleagues and reunite with his true love. But in doing so, Miles must confront his deepest held convictions and consider, 'what's in a name?' in a world where the spoken word has been replaced with silence.

'It is a story of language and love.' William Thacker

'Envisage Brian Friel, Matt Haig and Evelyn Waugh scribbling an utterly brilliant novel together, then dive into Lingua Franca. Remarkable.' Caroline Smailes

'William Thacker is a name you will hear a lot more often.' Matt Haig

'wildly satirical...full of biting observation' Literary Review

'This is bloody brilliant.' Heydon Prowse, Writer of the Bafta-winning The Revolution Will Be Televised

Other books by the author: Charm Offensive (2014) MAY 2016



A bit about the author...

Author and scriptwriter William Thacker was born in London in 1986. His debut novel, Charm Offensive, was published by Legend Press in 2014. As a screenwriter, William co-wrote the short film, Full Time, winner of the Best Film award at the 2014 Shanghai International Film Festival.

He is also the co-writer behind Steven, the feature-length Morrissey biopic currently in development. Lingua Franca is his second novel.

Follow Will on Twitter @ThrillWhacker

- Lingua Franca will appeal to a literary audience with a commercial crossover: the style is literary but the themes are everyday
- William is one of the UK's most exciting up-and-coming screenwriters
- Lingua Franca imagines a world in which the spoken word has been replaced by the sound of silence

CHAINS OF SAND BY JEMMA WAYNE



ISBN (Print): 9781785079726 ISBN (Ebook): 9781785079733 Published: 1st June 2016 Price: £8.99 (print), £3.99 (ebook) Extent: 288 pages Format: 198x129 paperback original Rights available: World English



Other books by the author: After Before (2014)

He has always been good at tracking down things that are hidden, like cockroaches in his mother's kitchen cupboard, or tunnels in Gaza.

At 26, Udi is a veteran of the Israeli army and has killed five men. He wants a new life in a new place. He has a cousin in England.

Daniel is 29, a Londoner, an investment banker and a Jew. He wants for nothing, yet he too is unable to escape an intangible yearning for something more. And for less. He looks to Israel for the answer.

But as the war with Hamas breaks out, Daniel cannot know that the star-crossed love of a Jewish girl and an Arabic man in Jerusalem a decade earlier, will soon complicate all that he thinks has become clear.

New novel from the author of After Before:

Longlisted for the Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction Shortlisted for the Waverton Good Read Award Longlisted for the Guardian not the booker

'This is a wonderful book. Intriguing, moving, absorbing. It explores universal emotions, and particular feelings. It's also a great read.' Daniel Finkelstein, Associate Editor, The Times

'a terrific novel by an accomplished writer, and deserves to cause a stir, with its brutally topical setting and the frank, poignant and bitter-sweet stories of its main characters.' Edwina Currie

'Hard-hitting and powerful' The Sun



JUNE 2016/

A bit about the author...

Born to an American musician father, and English mother, Jemma grew up in leafy Hertfordshire and studied Social and Political Sciences at Cambridge University and Broadcast Journalism at the University of Westminster. She began her career as a journalist at The Jewish Chronicle and now works freelance splitting her time between journalism, writing for stage, and prose.

ALE FIC

Her first play, Negative Space, was staged in 2009 at Hampstead's New End Theatre, receiving critical acclaim.

After Before was longlisted for the Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction and shortlisted for the Waverton Good Read Award.

Visit Jemma at jemmawayne.com Follow Jemma on Twitter @writejemmawayne

- It will be the first fictional address of the current Israeli-Palestinian crisis
- Author has a strong background in journalism and theatre
- New novel from award shortlisted author

WILD LIFE

JUNE 2016



ISBN (Print): 9781785079702 ISBN (Ebook): 9781785079719 Published: 13th June 2016 Price: £8.99 (print), £3.99 (ebook) Extent: 288 pages Format: 198x129 paperback original Rights available: World



When we moved into the wild, the wild moved into us.

When a troubled advertising salesman loses his job, the fragile wall between his public and private personas comes tumbling down. Fleeing his debtors, Adam abandons his family and takes to sleeping rough in a local park, where a fraternity of homeless men befriend him.

As the months pass, Adam gradually learns to appreciate the tough new regime, until winter arrives early, threatening to turn his paradise into a nightmare.

Starving, exhausted and sick of the constant infighting, Adam decides to return to his family. The men, however, have other plans for him. With time running out, and the stakes raised unbearably high, Adam is forced to question whether any of us can truly escape the wildness within.

Guardian Not the Booker Highly-commended author

'Compelling, chilling investigation into the dark instincts of masculinity.' The Guardian

> '...as intoxicating as home-distilled hooch.' Stephen May, Costa Novel Award-shortlisted author

'...inventive, finely written and disturbing.' Jim Crace, Man Booker Prize-shortlisted author

"...dark, brutal, funny and unforgettable" Benjamin Myers

'this compulsive read demands to be devoured in one sitting' Kerry Hadley-Pryce



A bit about the author...

After leaving school, Liam spent five years working a series of increasingly mundane jobs, including burger flipper, helium balloon pedlar and a two-month stint manning the shooting alley at a travelling fairground. After 18 months travelling and working in the Philippines, he returned to the UK and began writing stories. Liam is the lead singer and guitarist in the band Freelance Mourners. He lives in Birmingham with his wife and two children.

Follow Liam on Twitter @LiamBrownWriter

Key Selling Points:

- Highly original writing style filled with heightened emotion
- · It is the story of paradise turned sour
- A stark and fascinating glimpse into a society where the rules are removed
- Perfect for fans of The Beach and The Lord of the Flies
- Appeals to people disillusioned with the grind of city life and to anyone who's ever sat at their desk and pictured running away

Other books by the author: Real Monsters (2015)

OWL SONG AT DAWN BY EMMA CLAIRE SWEENEY

JULY 2016



ISBN (Print): 9781785079672 ISBN (Ebook): 9781785079665 Published: 1st July 2016 Price: £8.99 (print), £3.99 (ebook) Extent: 288 pages Format: 198x129 paperback original Rights available: World English Maeve Maloney is a force to be reckoned with. Despite nearing eighty, she keeps Sea View Lodge just as her parents did during Morecambe's 1950s heyday. But now only her employees and regular guests recognise the tenderness and heartbreak hidden beneath her spikiness. Until, that is, Vincent shows up.

Vincent is the last person Maeve wants to see. He is the only man alive to have known her twin sister, Edie. The nightingale to Maeve's crow, the dawn to Maeve's dusk, Edie would have set her sights on the stage – all things being equal. But, from birth, things never were.

If only Maeve could confront the secret past she shares with Vincent, she might finally see what it means to love and be loved – a lesson that her exuberant yet inexplicable twin may have been trying to teach her all along.

** Featured on BBC Radio 4's Woman's Hour**

'[A] quirky, moving novel' The Daily Mail

'Fresh, poignant and unlike anything else' Jill Dawson, Whitbread and Orange Prize-shortlisted author

'Tender and unflinching, a beautifully observed novel.' Carys Bray, Costa Prize-shortlisted author

'It crept under my skin and will stay there for a long time' Emma Henderson, Orange Prize-shortlisted author

'Amazing: fierce, intelligent, compassionate and deeply moving' Edward Hogan, Desmond Elliot Prize-winning author

> 'Funny, heartbreaking and truly remarkable' Susan Barker, New York Times bestselling author



A bit about the author...

Emma Claire Sweeney has won Arts Council, Royal Literary Fund and Escalator Awards, and has been shortlisted for several others, including the Asham, Wasafiri and Fish. She teaches Creative Writing at New York University; co-runs SomethingRhymed.com – a website on female literary friendship; and publishes features and pieces on disability for the likes of The Guardian, The Independent on Sunday and The Times.

Owl Song at Dawn is inspired by her autistic sister.

Follow Emma on Twitter @emmacsweeney

- A powerful and touching debut inspired by her autistic sister
- This novel handles disability sensitively and gives a voice to those who have been silenced in the past
- Perfect for fans of Karen Joy Fowler, Nathan Filer and Maggie O'Farrell
- Supported by a major national marketing and publicity campaign

THE BLACKBIRD SINGULARITY



ISBN (Print): 9781785079689 ISBN (Ebook): 9781785079696 Published: 1st August 2016 Price: £8.99 (print), £3.99 (ebook) Extent: 288 pages Format: 198x129 paperback original Rights available: World English Vince stops taking his lithium when he finds out about his partner's pregnancy. As withdrawal kicks in, he can barely hold his life together.

Somewhere between making friends with a blackbird in the back garden and hearing his dead son's footsteps in the attic, he finds himself lost and alone, journeying through a world of chaos and darkness, completely unaware of the miracle that lies ahead.

A gripping and surreal story of madness and redemption, about one man's struggle to reclaim his life and family after the death of his son and the news of a pregnancy.

Foreword from Dr Eleanor Longdon: Dr Longden's TED talk, Learning From the Voices in my Head, was featured on the front page of The Huffington Post and has been named by The Guardian newspaper as one of 'the 20 online talks that could change your life.' It has been viewed over 3m times and translated into 36 languages.

Featured in The Telegraph Weekend

'Wilven does a masterful job of keeping his readers as off-balance as his protagonist... an intense and satisfyingly off-beat examination of a man lost in a landscape of unresolved grief and his heroic fight to find his way back home.' Melissa DeCarlo, author of The Art of Crash Landing



AUGUST 2016



A bit about the author...

Matt Wilven was born in Blackpool in 1982. After receiving an MA with Distinction in Creative Writing, he spent the next ten years honing his craft. His part-time jobs in this time included: bingo caller, ice-cream man, fishmonger, paintball operative, camel derby caller, soap seller, copywriter, rollercoaster operator and DJ workshop coordinator. The Blackbird Singularity is his debut novel. He lives and writes in London.

Visit Matt at mattwilven.com Follow Matt on Twitter @mattwilven

- It is a brave narrative that stretches beyond its central question of how an unstable man gets over the loss of his child
- Pushes the boundaries of contemporary literary fiction
- A dark and original novel with elements of magical realism

THE STRAYS BY EMILY BITTO



ISBN (Print): 9781785079511 ISBN (Ebook): 9781785079528 Published: 15th August 2016 Price: £8.99 (print), £3.99 (ebook) Extent: 288 pages Format: 198x129 paperback original Rights available: UK and Ireland On her first day at a new school, Lily befriends one of the daughters of infamous painter Evan Trentham. He and his wife are trying to escape the conservatism of 1930s Australia by inviting other like-minded artists to live at their home. Lily becomes infatuated with this wild, bohemian lifestyle and longs to truly be a part of the family.

But as the years pass, Lily observes the way the lives of these artists come to reflect their art. Yet it's not Evan, but his own daughters, who pay the price for his radicalism. Almost 30 years later, Lily contemplates the ordinary path her own life took, how she has played it safe, but does freedom come at a cost?

Brought together once more, this is a story of the impact of loss, devotion and obsession, and the demise of one family.

> 'Told with an impressive intensity...' The Guardian '... a very stylish debut novel' The Sunday Mail

Winner of the Stella Prize 2015 University of Canberra 'Book of the Year' 2016 Longlisted for the Dublin IMPAC Literary Award Shortlised for the Dobbie Literary Award Shortlisted for the Indie Book Award for Debut Fiction Shortlisted for the NSW Premier's Prize for New Writing

AUGUST 2016



A bit about the author...

Emily co-owns a wine bar in Carlton, Melbourne, called Heartattack and Vine, which she opened with her partner and two other friends in October 2014.

She was previously employed for several years as a sessional lecturer and supervisor in the Creative Writing Programs at both the University of Melbourne and Victoria University.

The Strays is her debut novel.

Follow Emily on Twitter @emilybitto

- An engrossing story of ambition, sacrifice and compromised loyalties from an exciting new talent.
- Winner of several prestigious prizes.
- Acquired after huge success in Australia and sold in preempts by Writers House to Hachette in the US and Penguin Canada.

THE ART TEACHER BY PAUL READ



ISBN (Print): 9781785079573 ISBN (Ebook): 9781785079580 Published: 1st September 2016 Price: £8.99 (print), £3.99 (ebook) Extent: 288 pages Format: 198x129 paperback original Rights available: World Patrick Owen managed seven years at Highfields Secondary School without punching a pupil in the face.

Unknowingly drawn into a war against his own pupils, Patrick's patience finally snaps as he finds himself the number one target with the boy the school just can't seem to expel.

When one of his Art students needs his help, she unwittingly pulls Patrick further into the line of fire, altering their lives forever.

With the media circling and rumours of his involvement reaching new highs, Patrick must escape the world he lives in, or face the consequences.

A novel for anyone who is living life plan B whilst dreaming of plan A.

'A superb debut... gritty, disturbing and pacy.' Alex Lake, author of After Anna

' a dark thriller not to be missed it' I Read Novels

SEPTEMBER 2016



A bit about the author...

After gaining a first in Fine Art at Canterbury, Paul Read moved to London, and worked at Foyles before becoming a teacher. He has worked in several inner-city schools, both in England and Italy. Paul received a distinction from City University London for his creative writing MA.

A few years ago, Paul was involved in a hit-and-run incident which put him in a wheelchair for several months, during this time he wrote the first draft of *The Art Teacher*. He lives with Patricia and their two children.

Follow him on Twitter: @paulreadauthor

- Perfect for fans of dark thrillers with a commercial-literary appeal.
- Deals with a controversial topic

 violence between teachers and students.
- A fast-paced, topical and powerful novel, The Art Teacher will have readers gripped from the first sentence.

THE DHOW HOUSE

THE DHO-W HOUSE

This exotic novel handles large themes with assurance, tact and knowledge' Giles Foden, author of *The Last King of Scotland*

JEAN MCNEIL

ISBN (Print): 9781785079443 ISBN (Ebook): 9781785079450 Published: 15th September 2016 Price: £8.99 (print), £3.99 (ebook) Extent: 288 pages Format: 198x129 paperback original Rights available: World (Excluding US and Canada) When Rebecca Laurelson, an English doctor, is forced to leave her post in an East African field hospital, she arrives at her aunt's house on the Indian Ocean and is taken into the heart of a family she has never met before. Amongst the all-night beach parties and cocktail receptions, her attraction for her much younger cousin grows.

But the gilded lives of her aunt Julia's family and their fellow white Africans on the coast are under threat - Islamist terror attacks are on the rise and Rebecca knows more about this violence than she is prepared to divulge. Will she be able to save her new-found family from the violence that encroaches on their seductive lives? Or, amidst growing unrest, will the true reason for her hasty exit from her posting, be unmasked?

'This exotic novel handles large themes with assurance, tact and knowledge.' Giles Foden, author of The Last King of Scotland

'A sharp, unarguable talent.' New York Times Book Review

Praise for Jean:

Shortlisted for the Commonwealth Writers Prize

'stunningly written' New York Times 'sharp and evocative' Times Literary Supplement 'superb' Independent on Sunday 'An intelligent, watchful novel' Irish Times 'sensual, razor-sharp' Financial Times

SEPTEMBER 2016



A bit about the author...

Jean McNeil is a prolific fiction and non-fiction author whose work has been nominated for and won several major international awards. She is a Senior Lecturer at the University of East Anglia.

The Dhow House is Jean's seventh publication.

Key Selling Points:

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- A moody, sensual novel about forbidden passion and terrorism on the Indian ocean coast of east Africa.
- The story of a once privileged family, its passions, safeties and neglects, and forbidden love in dark time
- Would appeal to people interested in post-colonial studies, terrorism and peace and conflict studies
- Award-winning prolific author with a huge on-line readership.

MEDEA'S CURSE



ISBN (Print): 9781785079498 ISBN (Ebook): 9781785079504 Published: 1st September 2016 Price: £8.99 (print), £3.99 (ebook) Extent: 288 pages Format: 198x129 paperback original Rights available: UK and Ireland Forensic psychiatrist Natalie King works with victims and perpetrators of violent crime. She rides a Ducati a size too big and wears a tank top a size too small. Likes men but doesn't want to keep one. And really needs to stay on her medication.

Now she's being stalked. Could it be a hostile former patient? Or someone connected with a current case?

Natalie doesn't know. And with another missing child case on her desk, the time for answers is running out.

'A thrilling read that will have you on the edge of your seat' Buzzfeed

'Keeps the reader guessing to the very last page' Lisa Hall

'A plot-twisting page-turner... I was completely gripped' Emma Healey

'Anne Buist has produced an intelligent, well-paced thriller about Natalie King, a gifted forensic psychiatrist who works with the victims and sometimes the perpetrators of violent crime.' Adrian McKinty

'Crime novels and thrillers depend on strong investigators whose idiosyncrasies make them distinctive and attractively flawed. Melburnian Anne Buist has ticked these boxes with her creation.' Herald Sun

OCTOBER 2016



A bit about the author...

Anne Buist is the Chair of Women's Mental Health at the University of Melbourne and has over 25 years clinical and research experience in perinatal psychiatry working on cases of abuse, kidnapping, infanticide and murder.

Anne is married to novelist Graeme Simsion and has two children.

- Two book acquisition deal from Australian publisher, Text Publishing.
- A troubled forensic psychiatrist gets pulled into a missing child case through her attraction to the married prosecutor and puts her reputation on the line.
- Anne has over 25 years clinical and research experience in perinatal psychiatry working on abuse, kidnapping, infanticide and murder which gives authenticity to her novel.

LILY'S HOUSE BY CASSANDRA PARKIN



ISBN (Print): 9781785079344 ISBN (Ebook): 9781785079351 Published: 15th October 2016 Price: £8.99 (print), £3.99 (ebook) Extent: 288 pages Format: 198x129 paperback original Rights available: World When Jen goes to her grandmother's house for the last time, she's determined not to dwell on the past. As a child, Jen adored Lily and suspected she might be a witch; but the spell was broken long ago, and now her death means there won't be any reconciliation.

Lily's gone, but the enchantments she wove and the secrets she kept still remain. In Lily's house, Jen and her daughter Marianne reluctantly confront the secrets of the past and present - and discover how dangerous we become when we're trying to protect the ones we love.

'Lily's House has a voice that leaps out of the page and holds you tight. Fresh. Original. Spell-binding.' Jane Corry

'A beautiful story that carefully unravels the depth of love and lies in a family. Cassandra's writing pulled me in from the first page and wouldn't let me go.' Heidi Perks

' 'unexpectedly dark and dream-like. I loved the twists throughout - a very enjoyable read.' Natalie K. Martin

'A beautiful, rich, haunting and addictive masterpiece... I'll never forget it.' Louise Beech

OCTOBER 2016



A bit about the author...

Cassandra Parkin grew up in Hull, and now lives in East Yorkshire. Her short story collection, New World Fairy Tales (Salt Publishing, 2011) won the 2011 Scott Prize for Short Stories. She is also the author of The Summer We All Ran Away (2013) and The Beach Hut (2015). Cassandra's writing has been published in numerous magazines and anthologies.

Follow Cassandra on twitter @cassandrajaneuk

- A novel about family secrets, divided loyalties, and how far we'll go to protect the ones we love.
- Inspired by the author's love of Cornwall, where her grandparents lived and she spent her summers as a child.
- Strong commercial female fiction.

BENEATH THE ASHES BY JANE ISAAC



ISBN (Print): 9781785079474 ISBN (Ebook): 9781785079481 Published: 1st November 2016 Price: £8.99 (print), £3.99 (ebook) Extent: 288 pages Format: 198x129 paperback original Rights available: World The floor felt hard beneath her face. Nancy opened her eyes. Blinked several times. A pain seared through her head. She could feel fluid. No. She was lying in fluid. When a body is discovered in a burnt-out barn in the Warwickshire countryside, DI Will Jackman is called to investigate.

Nancy Faraday wakes up on the kitchen floor. The house had been broken into and her boyfriend is missing. As the case unravels, DI Jackman realises that nothing is quite as it appears and everyone, it seems, has a secret.

Can he discover the truth behind the body in the fire, and track down the killer before Nancy becomes the next victim?

'A very convincing police procedural with the delectable DI Will Jackman at the helm.' Louise Voss

' If you like pacy convincing police procedurals this is one for you.' Kate Ellis

'A tense police procedural with a fantastic plot and intense characters. I devoured the book in record time.' Lisa Cutts

'a highly skilled writer... she dissects the complexities of crime and human emotions with impressive insight and compassion.' Kate Rhodes

'I thought I'd never read a book that came close to the realities of crime and policing. Then I read this.' Ian Patrick, Writer and former DS with the Metropolitan Police

'A smart, intelligent and tightly woven police procedural with real depth of human emotion at its heart.' Rebecca Bradley

NOVEMBER 2016



A bit about the author...

Jane Isaac lives with her husband, daughter and dog, Bollo, in rural Northamptonshire.

Her first novel, An Unfamiliar Murder, was published in the US in 2012 and nominated as best mystery in the 'eFestival of Words Best of the Independent eBook awards 2013'.

The Truth Will Out, was selected 'Crime Thriller of the Month by EThriller.com and 'Noveltunity Book Club Winning Selection.

Follow Jane on Twitter @JaneIsaacAuthor

- Intense and gripping narrative style, perfect for fans of Gillian Flynn, S.J.
 Watson and Sophie Hannah
- A whodunnit that will appeal to avid readers of police procedurals and psychological thrillers
- Previous novels have topped the charts in digital and paperback sales

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2005/6

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2007

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