

The image features a central graphic of several stylized bird silhouettes, likely swifts, in flight. The birds are rendered in a dark, textured brown color with a speckled pattern of small white and orange dots. They are scattered across the upper and middle portions of the frame. Below the birds, the word "Swift" is written in a large, bold, serif font. The letters of the word are filled with the same dark brown, speckled texture as the birds. The entire composition is set against a plain white background.

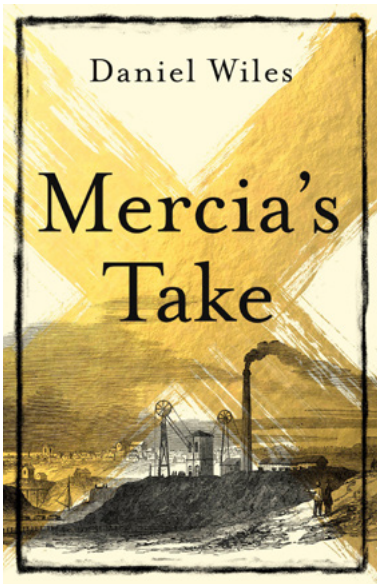
Swift

Rights catalogue London 2022

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MERCIA'S TAKE

Daniel Wiles

Observer ten best debuts 2022

'Energy and passion fuels this harsh and beautiful first novel; Daniel Wiles connects us viscerally to the past we have buried, the history we choose to ignore' HILARY MANTEL

FEBRUARY 2022

1870s, the Black Country.

Michael is a miner. But it's no life for a man.

Michael exhausts himself working two jobs, to send his son Luke to school, so he won't have to be a miner too.

Down the pit one day, he finds a seam of gold. If he gets it out, he can save his own life, and Luke's.

But his workmate has other ideas...

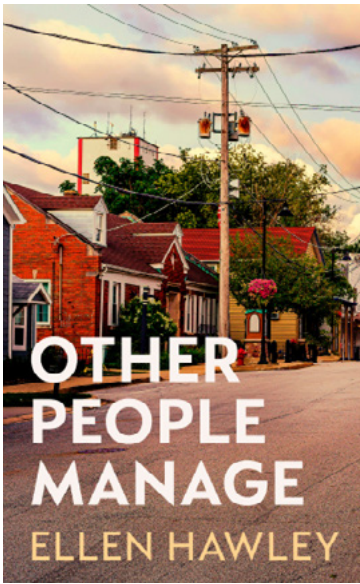
Gripping, powerful and intense, *Mercia's Take* summons an England in the heat of the industrial revolution, and the lives it took to make it.

Daniel Wiles is from Walsall in the West Midlands. He recently completed the Prose MA at UEA, where he was the recipient of the Booker Prize Foundation Scholarship. *Mercia's Take* is his first novel.



Rights: World All Languages

Rights sold: Greece (Dioptra), Turkey (Ayrinti)



OTHER PEOPLE MANAGE

Ellen Hawley

'A quietly devastating novel about our failings and how we cope' PATRICK GALE

APRIL 2022

It's the late 70s when Marge meets Peg at the Women's Coffee House, which is less a place to drink coffee than a place where two women can dance together safely. Who knows what draws people to each other? It's the right time. They're the right people.

For the next twenty years, they stay together, through the challenges any couple faces and the ones no one expects: a three-night stand refuses to stop standing, threatening to destroy the relationship almost before it starts. Peg's sister abandons her children, leaving the family to fill in as best they can. With everyday heroism, they do their best with what they've got.

Then one day things change, and Marge has to work out what she's left with – and if she still belongs to the family she's adopted as her own.

Ellen Hawley is an American writer living in Cornwall. She has worked as an editor and copyeditor, a radio talk show host, a cab driver, a janitor, an assembler, a file clerk (she lasted four days) and, for four fun-filled hours, a receptionist. *Other People Manage* is her first novel to be published in the UK.



Rights: World All Languages



QUARANTINE

Nick Holdstock

Intelligent, gripping and human, *Quarantine* is a novel about how we – as individuals, and as a society – deal with the aftermath of catastrophe

MAY 2022

How do we deal with the aftermath of catastrophe?

It's ten years since a deadly pandemic swept the globe, and five years since the last new case. Society came close to collapse, but now there's a vaccine – though not a cure – people are only dying in the usual ways.

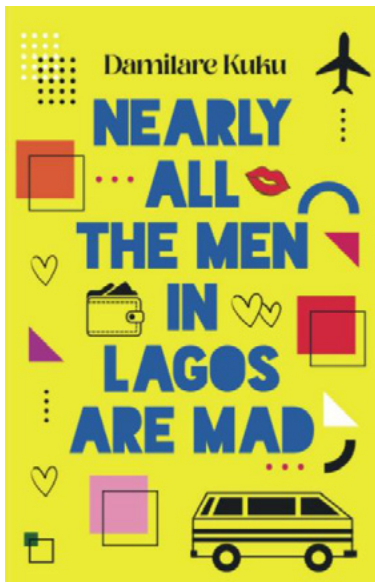
Lukas, along with several hundred other infected people, is quarantined in a camp on a mountain in central Asia. With nothing to do, and no future to speak of, the inmates pass the time drinking, taking drugs, joining a cult, making art or having sex with whoever they can.

Rebecca is a scientist who worked on the vaccine that saved the world. Having lost her partner in the years of chaos, she keeps testing the vaccine against mutations of the virus, because it seems inevitable that there will be a next time.

Nick Holdstock is a China expert who now lives in Edinburgh. As well as three non-fiction books on China, including two on Xinjiang, he has written for the *Guardian*, *n+1*, the *LRB*, the *TLS* and elsewhere. *Quarantine* is his first novel to be published in the UK.



Rights: World All Languages



NEARLY ALL THE MEN IN LAGOS ARE MAD

Damilare Kuku

'Witty and utterly enjoyable! At the heart of every story is a juicy scandal waiting to unfold. This is definitely the best of Lagos situationships in three hundred pages' SALLY KENNETH DADZIE, BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *STRANGER IN LAGOS*

JULY 2022

Nearly All the Men in Lagos Are Mad is a collection of twelve short stories featuring characters with unique voices and stories that represent the diverse class, gender and ethnic melting pot that is Lagos.

There's a story of a young lady who tries to find her oyibo soulmate on the streets of Lagos; another of a pastor's wife who defends her husband from an allegation of adultery; a wife takes a knife to her husband's penis and a night of lust between a rising musician and his Instagram baddie takes an unexpected turn.

Nearly All the Men in Lagos Are Mad underscores with wit, humour, wisdom and sensitivity, the perils of trying to find lasting love and companionship in Africa's most notorious city.

Damilare Kuku has worked as a radio presenter, scriptwriter, film producer, actor and director. *Nearly All the Men in Lagos Are Mad* is her first book.



Rights: World All Languages

LIBERAL BULLIES

Why the Left has an Authoritarianism Problem
and How to Fix It

Dr Luke Conway

PROPOSAL AVAILABLE

Using his own cutting-edge research to analyse contemporary politics, leading psychologist Luke Conway shows that it's not just right-wingers and fascists who long for an authority figure to crush their enemies, silence opponents, and restore order. A persistent proportion of left-wingers demonstrate authoritarian tendencies, and they're becoming more emboldened. On issues ranging from schooling and vaccine mandates to critical race theory, they are increasingly advocating censorship over free debate, disregarding the rule of law, and dehumanising their opponents. These tendencies are part of an accelerating 'threat circle' of mutual hatred and fear between left and right that could tear apart our basic democratic norms.

Concluding with an eloquent call for firm but rational resistance to this rising tide of liberal bullying, no-one concerned about cancel culture and the hyper-partisan warzone that our political arena has become can afford to miss this book.

Dr Luke Conway is the author of over 80 academic articles and book chapters, and his work has been cited over 3,300 times on Google Scholar. He has also written opinion and blog pieces for outlets such as *The Hill*, *Heterodox Academy* and *London School of Economics US Centre*, and his research has been featured in major media outlets such as the *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, *Huffington Post*, *Psychology Today*, *USA Today* and BBC radio. His blog for *Heterodox Academy* on "Why Liberals And Conservatives Are Not Experiencing The Same Pandemic" was at that time *Heterodox Academy's* most read blog post ever.

Rights: World All Languages

HOW TO WIN A WAR

The Eight Principles of Warfare

Paul Barnes

PROPOSAL AVAILABLE MAY 2022

The principles of war haven't changed in centuries. In the beginning of the 20th, JFC Fuller, a senior British army officer, took in his own battlefield experience, and the writings of strategists from Sun Tzu to Clausewitz, and codified them in a book entitled *The Foundations of the Science of War*. To this day, with slight tweaks, these principles still govern strategic military thinking in armed forces around the world. In the United States, Great Britain, Israel and many more besides, the principles first gathered by Fuller have been formally adopted into the doctrines that govern how to fight, and how to win wars. Paul Barnes knows, because he has spent much of the last years updating the British armed forces' own principles of war, to prepare the UK for conflicts for the next 100 years and beyond.

We live in a world that is changing rapidly, and warfare is changing with it. Using the principles that governed 20th Century conflict to fight in the 21st Century won't work without refinement, and while the fundamental dynamics of human conflict aren't set to change, the fundamental shape of warfare is.

Paul Barnes is a serving soldier in the British Army. He has deployed on operations to the Former Yugoslavia, Northern Ireland, Iraq, and Afghanistan. He is currently a doctrine writer at the Army's Land Warfare Centre in Wiltshire. Paul was a Fellow at the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) and remains a member of the RUSI Military Science Advisory Board. He is currently a Fellow at the Modern War Institute at West Point, in the United States, a Chief of the General Staff's Fellow, and a Chief of the Air Staff's Fellow. He holds an MA in Military History from the University of Birmingham.

Rights: World All Languages

THE PARADOX OF DEBT

Understanding Debt, Money, and the Net Worth of Nations

Richard Vague

PROPOSAL AVAILABLE

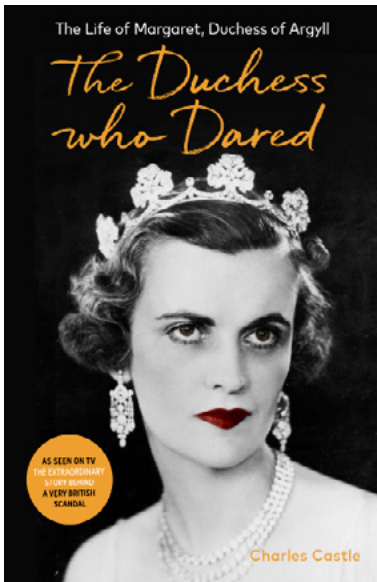
The paradox of debt is that, on the one hand, debt is pervasive and economies cannot operate or grow without it. But on the other, when private sector debt grows too rapidly it brings financial calamity, and when it climbs too high, it suppresses growth, and increases wealth but also inequality.

The Paradox of Debt makes a simple yet vital point: all forms of debt, especially private sector debt, are much more deserving of our attention and deep understanding than economists or policymakers currently acknowledge. It gives us a new toolbox to understand this most crucial of economic underpinnings.

An engaging analysis of the dynamics of debt in the US and world economy using a crystal clear balance sheet methodology, which will explain the 'paradox of debt' and the policies that can that balance risk with dynamism.

Richard Vague is Secretary of Banking and Securities for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He is the author of four books including *The Case for a Debt Jubilee*, a policy exploration of debt relief. Previously, he was managing partner of Gabriel Investments, an early-stage venture capital company; co-founder, Chairman and CEO of Energy Plus, an electricity and natural gas supply company sold to NRG Energy in 2011, and co-founder and CEO of two banks – First USA, and Juniper.

**ALREADY
PUBLISHED**



THE DUCHESS WHO DARED

The Life of Margaret, Duchess of Argyll

Charles Castle

The extraordinary story behind *A Very British Scandal*, starring Claire Foy and Paul Bettany

Margaret was debutante of the year, the beautiful fairy-tale heiress immortalised in Cole Porter's 'You're The Top' – who ended up penniless and ostracised from her own family.

Legal actions coloured her life – her divorce from the Duke of Argyll was one of the longest, costliest and most notorious in British legal history. Her diaries, and photographs of her with an anonymous naked man, were used in evidence.

This sparkling biography draws on exclusive interviews with the late Duchess to lift the lid off her extraordinary story, and her scandalous lifestyle. *The Duchess Who Dared* is a fascinating chronicle of a complex, charming and suprisingly modern woman.

Charles Castle was a South African-born British tap dancer, writer and television producer. He published *The Duchess Who Dared* in 1994, based on tapes he'd recorded with the Duchess. Charles Castle died in 2013.





SEESAW

TIMOTHY OGENE

'A brilliantly meta satire about literary culture, race, class, not writing'

WHITE REVIEW BOOKS OF THE YEAR

A 'recovering writer' – his first novel having been littered with typos and selling only fifty copies – Frank Jasper is plucked from obscurity in Port Jumbo in Nigeria to attend the prestigious William Blake Program for Emerging Writers in Boston.

Once there, however, it becomes painfully clear that he and the other Fellows are expected to meet certain obligations as representatives of their 'cultures'; eventually expelled from the fellowship for 'non-performance' and 'non-participation,' Frank sets off on trip to visit his father's college friend in Nebraska.

Seesaw is an energetic comedy of cultural dislocation – and in its humour, intelligence and piety-pricking, it is a refreshing and hugely enjoyable act of literary rebellion.

Timothy Ogene was raised in the outskirts of Port Harcourt in southern Nigeria. He has since lived in Liberia, the UK and the US, where he is a Lecturer in African literary and cultural studies at Harvard. *Seesaw* is his second novel.

