

**MacFarlane Chard Associates**  
**Fiction Rights**

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## Penny Avis & Joanna Berry

### **Never Mind the Botox**

The books are about four professional women all working on the sale of high profile cosmetic surgery business, the Beau Street Group. Alex Fisher is a high-flying City lawyer busy planning her perfect wedding to Elliott, her musician fiancé; and despite the best efforts of her neurotic mother, the wedding promises to be classy, tasteful and meringue free. Having transformed herself from hippy chick to corporate chic, Alex has studiously worked her way up through the ranks and is now on the brink of making partner. She's on a night out with her best friend and chief bridesmaid Emma when she bumps into Rob, a friend from university. Now working as a cosmetic surgeon, and rather easy on the eye himself, he tells her about a deal going down at a cosmetic surgery clinic. Alex jumps on the lead and is thrilled to land the job working on the sale of the Beau Street Group to a major US cosmetic surgery outfit. This could be just what she needs to take her career to the next level. Alex assembles a team of lawyers that includes Dan, a very good looking American, and they're all soon amusing themselves studying the business's interesting range of surgical offerings...

## Paul Burke

**Break a Leg** Meet John Nolan, jobbing actor, the one from all those TV shows whose name you can't remember, whose parts are never big, but whose wages just about pay the bills. Divorced and disillusioned, his world seems about to change when a top Hollywood producer casts him opposite Robert DeNiro in a major movie. LA seems like a dream come true, complete with a leading actress who seems to have fallen heavily for John. Not a good time, then, to damage his knee so badly in a road accident that all his hopes seem to be slipping through his fingers. But his physical convalescence brings with it an extraordinary sequence of events that sees John rebuilding, reshaping and reclaiming his life, right down to the well won feel-good ending. Very funny, very perceptive, and sometimes very moving, this is a very winning commercial novel.

**Father Frank** This is a story about a Roman Catholic priest who runs his North London parish whilst harbouring an almighty secret: he doesn't believe in God. This doesn't stop him from being hugely successful, if a little unconventional in his work. He raises money by driving a London taxi and everything is going well until Sarah hops into his cab and into his life.

**Untorn Tickets:** Notting Hill - 1978. Dave Kelly and Andy Zymanczyk are two teenage boys trying to escape their secure, loving but oppressive Catholic backgrounds. Andy's life is even more stifling as the only child of very strict Polish parents. For the first time in his life, he is allowed to take a part-time job, and begins work at the beautiful Odeon cinema in Westbourne Grove, under the irresponsible but charismatic influence of the manager Tony Harris. The two friends begin a voyage of discovery: they learn about films, they learn about music, they learn about life and are exposed to a level of freedom and temptation that neither has ever known before. But in an era of great upheaval, their beloved cinema and their strict Catholic grammar school are both put under threat and they realise that their lives will never be the same again.

**The Man Who Fell In Love With His Wife:** Frank Dempsey is back but this time as a father of a very different kind. Newly-wed Frank Dempsey, a former non-believing Catholic priest, can now luxuriate in the sublime joys of his wives arms and the paradise of silk versus sackcloth. Yet Frank isn't off-duty from charitable deeds when he isn't driving his black cab for a local taxi firm, he is in hot demand to speak at weddings, christenings and funerals, or to inspire people to flock to the dance floor with his skills as a DJ. From the Big Apple to the bitten apple, Frank soon discovers that the

tempting sins of the flesh have consequences; when Frank becomes a real father, he realises he is going to need a miracle to feed the five thousand . . .

**The Life Of Reilly:** What do you do when you meet Miss Right ten years too late? Sean Reilly seems to have his life sorted: gorgeous wife, beautiful house and lucrative career as a voice-over artist. But he craves the sort of romance and affection that he no longer receives from his wife. Why is it, he wonders, that once married, women want men to change and hate it when they don't? Whereas men never want women to change and hate it when they do. Lucy Ross, 'caught single' after breaking up with her long-term boyfriend, is also looking for romance when she meets Sean. She doesn't want him to change, she wants him the way he is, so could the life of Reilly be sorted after all?

## Simon Conway

### **The Agent Runner** (Pembury House Publishing)

Ed found it difficult to explain why he felt such a strong allegiance to Britain, perhaps because he found it difficult to define what it meant to be British. British by birth, foreign by descent and agnostic by conviction, Edward Henry Malik is an MI6 agent-runner. For four years he has been running an agent codenamed Nightingale inside the ISI, Pakistan's Hydra-headed spying agency. Then, in the aftermath of the death of Osama bin Laden, Nightingale is unmasked and Ed's world dramatically falls apart. Dismissed from MI6 and with his reputation in tatters, Ed returns to his roots in the immigrant enclave of Whitechapel in London's East End. He finds a job at a freight forwarding office and unexpectedly falls in love with the proprietor's daughter. It seems as if he has finally found respite from his demons. But you can't escape your past. Ed knows too much and he has come to the attention of the Hidden Hand – Pakistan's legendary spy of spies – Major-General Javid Aslam Khan. From the teeming city of Lahore to the anarchic tribal areas bordering Afghanistan, with a plot to detonate the dirtiest bomb imaginable, *The Agent Runner* carves a dramatic arc across modern Pakistan and reaches a thunderous climax in the mountains of the Hindu Kush.

### **Rock Creek Park** (Hodder & Stoughton) - *Under Option to BigTalk/ITV America.*

As science develops more and more sophisticated military hardware, inevitably it has also turned to the genetic 'enhancement' of military personnel. Scottish former police protection officer Harriet "Harry" Armstrong discovers the body of a beautiful young woman outside the home of a powerful US Senator. Detective Michael Freeman knows this case means pressure - pressure to close the case quickly, pressure to keep the Senator out of it, pressure from his ambitious wife not to rock the political boat. But Harry and Freeman have both become involved in a conspiracy that is impossible to walk away from. What is the Senator's link to a shady genetic engineering company? Why does MI6 want Harry to take a job with the company's founder? An edgy combination of political thriller and police procedural, *ROCK CREEK PARK* represents another step in the brilliant career of this CWA award-winning author.

### **A Loyal Spy** (Hodder & Stoughton)

#### **Winner of the Ian Fleming Steel Dagger Award for Best Thriller 2010**

The last time Jonah saw Nored-Din, he was lying face down in a pool of black water in the Khyber Pass. For many years, Jonah had been under the impression that he'd killed him there. How far can loyalty be stretched before it reaches a limit? Millions of lives depend on the answer, as a twisting road of betrayal and revenge leads from the mountains of Afghanistan to the heart of London . . . and a ticking bomb.

**Rage** (Hodder & Stoughton)

Jonah is a man with nowhere left to run. Hunted, haunted and bearing the horrific scars of a life on the front line of some of the world's most dangerous battlefields, he's not what you'd call a model soldier. That's why the British Army has shipped him to the lawless strip of desert sandwiched between Iraq and Kuwait, where everything is for sale and nothing is what it seems. It's 2003 and conflict looms, but for Jonah, the war has already started. He's been sent here as a UN observer - unarmed, impartial and safely out of harm's way. Big mistake. Although he isn't a man who goes looking for trouble, trouble has an awkward habit of following him, and from the moment he lands, Jonah is in over his head. Drawn into a ruthless world of corruption, Jonah is about to learn that in the Zone, life is cheap, and the truth is deadly.

**Damaged** (Canongate & Hodder & Stoughton)

In a North Sea storm a drilling rig sinks, taking with it the ten kilos of hashish that Calum Bean has hidden in its superstructure. When the bankrollers decide that Cal's kneecaps are a reasonable forfeit, his cousin, renegade army officer Seb MacCoinneach, comes to the rescue. But Seb has an agenda of his own. Turned down by the SAS, in fierce competition with his dead brother and in a bitter feud with his father, he masterminds a plan that will make fools of all those who have rejected him. Spurred on by his half-sister Madelene, a ruthless manipulator, he starts upon a lethal game in the name of freedom. And he needs Cal with him.

**Jane Fallon**

**Tell Me A Secret** (Penguin January 2019)

Best friends Holly and Roz tell each other everything.

So when Holly gets a shot at her dream job after putting everything on hold to raise her daughter, she assumes Roz will be waiting to pop the champagne.

But is she just imagining things or is Roz not quite as happy as she should be?

And now she thinks about it, a few things don't quite add up...

Perhaps it was a mistake to tell Roz all her secrets.

*Because it takes two to tango.*

*But only one to start a war...*

**Faking Friends** (Penguin January 2018)

Your best friend stole your fiancé. Do you run away and hide, or start planning your revenge? Find out in *Sunday Times* bestselling author Jane Fallon's BRAND NEW novel.

*Best friend, soulmate, confidante . . . backstabber.*

Amy thought she knew everything there was to know about her best friend Melissa. Then again, Amy also thought she was on the verge of the wedding of her dreams to her long-distance fiancé. Until she pays a surprise trip home to London. Jack is out, but it's clear another woman has been making herself at home in their flat. There's something about her stuff that feels oddly familiar . . . and then it hits Amy. The Other Woman is Melissa. Amy has lost her home, her fiancé and her best friend in one disastrous weekend - but instead of

falling apart, she's determined to get her own back. Piecing her life back together won't be half as fun as dismantling theirs, after all.

**My Sweet Revenge** (Penguin January 7th 2017)

I want to make my husband fall back in love with me. Let me explain. This isn't an exercise in 1950s wifeydom. I haven't been reading articles in old women's magazines. 'Twenty ways to keep your man'. That couldn't be further from the truth. I want him to fall back in love with me so that when I tell him to get the hell out of my life he'll care. He won't just think, 'Oh good'. I want it to hurt. Paula has had Robert's back since they got together as drama students. She gave up her dreams so he could make it. Now he's one of the nation's most popular actors. And Paula's just discovered he's having an affair. She's going to remind Robert just what he's sacrificing. And then she's going to break his heart like he broke hers. It will be her greatest acting role ever. Revenge is sweet. Isn't it?

**Strictly Between Us** (Penguin January 14th 2016)

Behind every great woman stands another one. And for television producer Tamsin, that's Bea, her brilliant assistant. The only one Tamsin can trust with her coffee order, her dry-cleaning and filing; Bea does it all with a smile on her face. So when Tamsin hears a rumour that Patrick, her oldest and best friend's husband, is cheating on his wife, she is furious. Knowing she can't just ignore it, Tamsin plots a scheme to catch Patrick in the act, using Bea as live-bait. It should be foolproof. Except Tamsin never considered Bea might have her own agenda. And if she does, then Tamsin really needs to watch her back . . .

**Skeletons** (Penguin, March 2014)

Jen has discovered a secret. It's not hers to share, but is it hers to keep? If she tells her husband Jason, he might get over the shock but will he forgive her for telling the truth? She might drive a wedge through their marriage. If she tells someone else in Jason's family - the family she's come to love more than her own - she'd not only tear them apart but could also find herself on the outside: she's never really been one of them, after all. But if she keeps this dirty little secret to herself, how long can she pretend nothing is wrong? How long can she live a lie? Jen knows the truth - but is she ready for the consequences?

**Ugly Sister** (Penguin 2011)

When it comes to genes life's a lottery. As Abi would be the first to know. She has spent her life in the shadow of her stunningly beautiful, glamorous older sister Cleo. Headhunted as model when she was sixteen, Cleo has been all but lost to Abi for the last twenty years, with only a fleeting visit or brief email to connect them. So when Abi is invited to spend the summer in Cleo's large London home with her sister's perfect family, she can't bring herself to say no. Despite serious misgivings. Maybe Cleo is finally as keen as Abi to regain the closeness they shared in their youth? But Abi is in for a shock. Soon she is left caring for her two young, bored and very spoilt nieces and handsome, unhappy brother-in-law - while Cleo plainly has other things on her mind. As Abi moves into her sister's life, a cuckoo in the nest, she wrestles with uncomfortable feelings. Could having beauty, wealth and fame lead to more unhappiness than not having them? Who in the family really is the ugly sister?

**Foursome** (Penguin 2010)

Rebecca, Daniel, Alex and Isabel have been best friends since university. Rebecca married Daniel, Alex married Isabel and, for twenty years, they have been inseparable. But all that is about to change. When Alex walks out on Isabel, Rebecca thinks things can't get any worse. But then she

finds out the reason why and she's left harbouring a secret she'd rather forget. And there's more upheaval to come in Rebecca's life as her emaciated, neurotic, self-obsessed colleague, Lorna her arch nemesis at work suddenly becomes a regular feature in her social life. Rebecca's once-happy foursome is now a distant memory and with hearts broken and friendships fractured, it seems that change is never a good thing. Or is it?

### **Got You Back** (Penguin 2008)

A husband. A wife. A mistress. And the ultimate plan for revenge... The husband James never intended to lead a double life – with a wife in London and a mistress in the country, it's exhausting. But that's all about to change. The wife Stephanie isn't really snooping when she finds a text message from a strange woman on her husband's mobile. But now she's found it, how can she ignore it? It's time to track the woman down and find out what's going on. The mistress Katie has no reason to believe her boyfriend, James, is cheating until someone claiming to be his wife gets in touch. Now she's been cast in the role of mistress. Not one she's happy with. Once Stephanie and Katie know about each other, they must decide what to do. They could both just throw him out or they could join forces to make his life hell first. But revenge isn't always sweet. And what happens when one woman thinks enough is enough but the other doesn't know when to stop?

### **Getting Rid of Matthew** (Penguin 2007)

What to do if Matthew, your secret lover of the past four years, finally decides to leave his wife Sophie and their two daughters and move into your flat, just when you're thinking that you might not want him anymore . . .

PLAN A: Stop shaving your armpits. And your bikini line. Tell him you have a moustache that you wax every six weeks. Stop having sex with him. Pick holes in the way he dresses. Don't brush your teeth. Or your hair. Or pluck out the stray hag-whisker that grows out of your chin. Buy incontinence pads and leave them lying around

PLAN B: Accidentally on purpose bump into his wife Sophie. Give yourself a fake name and identity. Befriend Sophie. Actually begin to really like Sophie. Snog Matthew's son (who's the same age as you by the way. You're not a paedophile) Buy a cat and give it a fake name and identity. Befriend Matthew's children. Unsuccessfully watch your whole plan go absolutely horribly wrong.

## **Caroline Grace-Cassidy**

### **The Week I Ruined My Life** (Black & White June 2016)

Ali Devlin isn't the type of woman to have an affair...

But as her marriage to her childhood sweetheart Colin turns bitter, she begins to rediscover the woman she once was. She seeks solace from her toxic relationship by throwing herself into a new job that she loves, by confiding in her best friend Corina and, most dangerously of all, by spending more and more time with her workmate Owen – who just so happens to be passionate, charming and everything her husband used to be. Then one heat-of-the-moment decision on a business trip to Amsterdam sets off a series of events that will change the course of all their lives forever.

## **A J Healy**

### **Tommy Storm** (Quercus)

In the year 2096, Earth is sent an invitation by Wisebeardface, head of the MilkyFed, that will change the course of its history. "We, the MilkyFed, are delighted to invite 5 children to a training school...in the centre of the Milky Way." Earthling and loser Tommy Storm, aged 11, is chosen for

the secret mission for all the wrong reasons. Travelling in the 'BigLongThingy III' spaceship and wearing the NUTS (Nations Undertaking Travel into Space) space outfit, a polka-dot skin-tight ski-suit with 'E' for Earth imprinted on the back, he's convinced he will fail. Yet could it be that Tommy, and his newly spiked and trendy hair, is the only hope for the Earth and the Universe itself?

### **Tommy Storm and the Galactic Knights (Quercus)**

Earthling Tommy and his four Milky Way friends are Galactic Knights — on a mission to save the Universe from pending destruction. Time is running out and the knights have many challenges in their way: they face the dreaded Beast of Hellsbells, must resist the allure of fame on an intergalactic gameshow and escape the deathly intents of the sherbet-addicted Nack Jickelson and the suicidal Chocolate Terrorists. All the while evil mastermind A-Sad-Bin-Liner is planning to unleash his plot of mass destruction and Tommy will be forced to choose between his friends and his ambition, between the universe and his own life.

## **Mark Langthorne & Matt Richards**

### **The Curse of the Baskervilles**

Arthur Conan-Doyle has been tasked by King Edward VII to raise the nation's morale following the death of Queen Victoria with a new *Sherlock Holmes* story. The only problem is that Doyle killed off *Holmes* almost a decade earlier. However, the King's demands cannot be ignored, not least because Doyle is suffering financial problems owing to the lack of success of his more 'worthy' recent historical novels. But Doyle has no story. How fortunate then, that he is approached by a Devon journalist, Bobbles Robinson, who wants help publishing his own novel based on a notorious Dartmoor legend...

**Somebody To Love: The Life, Death and Rebirth of Freddie Mercury** (Published November 2016 – Blink Publishing) *All rights available*  
Freddie Mercury Biography.

**83 Minutes: The Doctor, the Damage and the Shocking Death of Michael Jackson** (Blink Publishing) *All rights available*

On June 25th, 2009, the world was rocked by the tragic, shocking news that Michael Jackson, the biggest and most influential music icon since Elvis Presley, was pronounced dead on arrival at a Los Angeles hospital. He was 50 years old. This is a comprehensive and truly horrifying account of those crucial 83 minutes before his death - a multi-perspective tracking of all who were involved at the scene, and their part to play in the events surrounding Jackson's tragic passing. The shocking cocktail of drugs employed to keep Jackson alive; the harrowing and squalid conditions in which this troubled musical genius ended his life, all is accurately described from official court transcripts and documentation in this powerful and compelling account of one of the darkest few hours in music.

## **Sara Lawrence**

### **High Jinx(Faber & Faber)**

Jinx Slater is delighted to have reached the giddy heights of the lower sixth at Stagmount, England's most exclusive school for girls. Her ground floor window affords her an excellent view of Brighton's

bright lights, and Jinx is a girl with escape on her mind and a miniature screw driver kit in her tuckbox. Liberty Latiffe, Jinx's best friend and all round perfect partner in crime, is not at all worried about being caught out by her very strict father. Nor are the rest of the girls. Until, that is, Stella Fox - Stagmount's newest new girl - arrives on the scene, determined to make her mark.

**Jinxed** (Faber & Faber) *Jinxed is the sequel to High Jinx*

It's the end of the Christmas holidays and Jinx is worried about her best friend Liberty Latiffe and, for the first time ever, isn't looking forward to the start of the spring term at Stagmount, England's most exclusive school for girls. It's pretty clear that her beloved school is fast becoming a den of iniquity where you could cut the sexual tension with a knife. As the school becomes a shambles, Mrs Bennett loses her cool. Where the hell is the bloody bursar when you need him? Why on earth have the identical Russian triplets been moved down into the lower sixth? Where do Liv and Charlie keep sneaking off to and what is causing their suspicious bruises? Can Jinx get her man and save the school?

### Clare Pooley

**SOBER DIARIES** Like many women, Clare Pooley found the juggle of a stressful career and family life a struggle so she left her successful role as a Managing Partner in one of the world's biggest advertising agencies to look after her family. She knew the change wouldn't be easy but she never expected to find herself an overweight, depressed, middle-aged mother of three who was drinking more than a bottle of wine a day, and spending her evenings Googling 'Am I an alcoholic?'

This book is the bravely honest story of a year in Clare's life. A year that started with her quitting booze and then being given the devastating diagnosis of breast cancer. By the end of the year she is booze-free and cancer-free, she no longer has a wine belly, is two stone lighter and with a life that is so much richer, healthier and more rewarding than ever before. She has a happier family and a more positive outlook. *Sober Diaries* is an upbeat, funny and positive look at how to live life to the full.

Interwoven within Clare's own very personal and brilliantly comic story is research and advice as she discovers the answers to questions like: *How do I know if I'm drinking too much? How will I cope at parties? What do I say to friends and family? How do I cope with cravings? If I stop drinking will I lose weight? What if my partner still drinks?* And many more.