

**MacFarlane Chard Associates
Fiction Rights**

11 September 2020

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INDEPENDENT AUTHORS

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 wifes 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 Stranger (Hodder and Stoughton)

ISIS can't control him.

MI6 can't find him.

But he's coming...

Things change quickly in the world of espionage and clandestine operations. Jude Lyon of MI6 remembers the captured terrorist bomb-maker. He watched him being flown off to Syria, back when Syria was 'friendly'. No-one expected him to survive interrogation there.

Yet the man is alive and someone has broken him out of jail.

Bad news for the former foreign secretary who authorised his rendition. And Jude's boss Queen Bee who knew he wasn't a terrorist at all, but an innocent bystander. Now she calls Jude back from a dangerously enjoyable mission involving a Russian diplomat's wife.

He has a new job: close down this embarrassment. Fast.

But embarrassment is only the beginning. Someone is using the former prisoner to front a new and unspeakably terrifying campaign. Someone not even ISIS can control.

He is like a rumour, a myth, a whisper on the desert wind. But he is real and he is coming for us ...

He is the genius known only as ...

The Stranger.

From the corridors of Westminster to the refugee camps of Jordan, the back streets of East London to the badlands of Iraq, The Stranger is a nerve-shredding journey of suspense as Jude Lyon pieces together the shape of an implacable horror coming towards him – and a conspiracy of lies behind him.

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. 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 ITV America.*

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. 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

Queen Bee (Penguin March 2020)

When Laura's marriage falls apart she needs to find a home for her and her daughter. And quickly. Welcome to The Close, a beautiful street of mansions, where Laura rents a tiny studio above a garage, and gorgeous Stella is the indisputable Queen Bee - who soon suspects Laura of having designs on her fiancé. But when Laura unearths the ghastly secret he is hiding, it threatens Stella's perfectly curated world as well as Laura's career. Hatching an elaborate plan to beat him at his own game, these former enemies are now best friends. But has Laura forgotten that revenge always comes with a sting in the tail?

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 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 Wisebeardyface, 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.

Amanda Keats

The Pairing

Our heroine is Soldier, rescued as a small child, from the robbers who killed her parents, by the enigmatic and ruthless General Toi. She grows to be his most trusted and gifted warrior, dispassionate and efficient in the execution of her military duties. But when she falls prey to the almost folkloric phenomenon of 'the pairing' and experiences the awakening of love for another human being all her certainties are swept away and she finds herself on the run, in hiding, and, ultimately, on the attack. She and the band of survivors she joins are looking for peace and security, but also answers to the deepest existential questions about where they are, why they are here, and what kind of future they can build?

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.

Lynn Picknett and Clive Prince

When God had a Wife

Reveals the tradition of goddess worship in early Judaism and how Jesus attempted to restore the feminine side of the faith

- Provides historical and archaeological evidence for an earlier form of Hebrew worship with both male and female gods, including a 20th-century discovery of a Hebrew temple dedicated to both Yahweh and the warrior goddess Anat
- Explores the Hebrew pantheon of goddesses, including Yahweh's wife, Asherah, goddess of fertility and childbirth
- Shows how both Jesus and his great rival Simon Magus were attempting to restore the ancient, goddess-worshipping religion of the Israelites

Providing all the necessary evidence to restore the goddess to both Judaism and Christianity, Picknett and Prince expose the disastrous consequences of the suppression of the feminine from these two great religions and reveal how we have been collectively and instinctively craving the return of the Sacred Feminine for millennia.

Clare Pooley

SOBER DIARIES (Optioned to ROUGHCUT 2019)

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.

ANNETTE GREEN AGENCY

Katherine Clements

The Crimson Ribbon

Katherine's debut novel is a story of obsession, superstition and hope, set against the radical politics and religious fervour of the English Civil War. It is told through the eyes of Ruth, a servant in the household of Oliver Cromwell, who witnesses the brutal lynching of her mother; and is interwoven with the story of Lizzie Poole, a real-life prophetess, who testifies at the trial of Charles I. Persecuted as a witch, Ruth flees to London, beginning a journey that will take her to the heart of the country's conflict, and teach her the difference between passion and true love.

The story was inspired by historical accounts of a mysterious woman, who argued for the life of the King, during the infamous trial that would end in regicide. Pamphleteers of the day suggested that she was a fake, stage-managed by Cromwell and his cronies. We don't know much about Lizzie Poole, who she was, or why she was given a voice during one of history's most shocking prosecutions but this novel brings her life into sharp focus as it becomes irrevocably intertwined with Ruth's in an unforgettable story of passion and betrayal.

The Silvered Heart

1648: Civil war is devastating England. The privileged world of Katherine Ferrers is crumbling under Cromwell's army and, as an orphaned heiress, she has no choice but to marry for the sake of family. But as her marriage turns into a prison and her fortune is forfeit, Katherine becomes increasingly desperate. So when she meets a man who shows her a way out, she seizes the chance. It is dangerous and brutal, and she knows if they're caught, there's only one way it can end... The mystery of Lady Katherine Ferrers, legendary highwaywoman, has captured the collective imagination of generations. Now, based on the real woman, the original 'Wicked Lady' is brought gloriously to life in this tale of infatuation, betrayal and survival.

The Coffin Path

A hugely enjoyable Gothic treat of novel. The bleak and brooding 17th century moors in Yorkshire form the milieu of Katherine's spine-chilling third novel. Scarcross Hall and the moors are Mercy Boorh and her family's home and lifeblood. Yet beneath tis certainty, small things are beginning to trouble her: three ancient coins missing from her father's study; the shadowy figure out by the gatepost; an unshakeable sense that someone is watching. For fans of Affinity, and Michelle Paver, this will capture your imagination and chill you to the bone.

Stephan Collishaw

The Song of the Stork

This is a novel about Jewish partisans in World War II. The book opens with Yael, a fifteen year old girl on the run. She has escaped from a German raid on her town and is alone. Not knowing where to turn she goes to the farm of a young Russian. Aleksei is considered mad by the town's inhabitants. He is mute and lives on his own, shunning company. With reluctance Aleksei takes her in and as the brutal winter advances a brittle relationship forms between the two. As the war continues Yael joins a Jewish partisan group fighting and surviving in the woods. The novel is a love story and a coming-of-age tale. It is about a young woman finding her voice as around her the voices of her community are extinguished. It is pitched at a female audience. Stephan is the author of two previous novels for adults. *The Last Girl* and *Amber (Sceptre)*. Julie Myerson in *The Guardian* wrote that *The Last Girl* was 'astoundingly complex,.tense, vivid.

A Child Called Happiness

Three days after arriving in Zimbabwe, Natalie discovers an abandoned newborn baby on a hill near her uncle's farm. 115 years earlier, the hill was home to the Mazowe village where Chief Tafara governed at a time of great unrest. Faced with taxation, abductions and loss of their land at the hands of the white settlers, Tafara joined forces with the neighbouring villages in what becomes the first of many

Patricia Ferguson

(*Orange Prize listed author*)

The Midwife's Daughter

For a little while, Violet Dimond was the very last of a tradition older than any profession, older than history, older than writing and houses, perhaps older than weapons, older than fire. Then that tradition ended, and no one, not even Violet herself, remarked on its passing. Violet Dimond, the Holy Terror, has delivered many of the town children - and often their children - in her capacity as handywoman. But Violet's calling is dying out as, with medicine's advances, the good old ways are no longer good enough. Grace, Violet's adopted daughter, is a symbol of change herself. In the place where she has grown up and everyone knows her, she is accepted, though most of the locals never before saw a girl with skin that colour. For Violet and Grace the coming war will bring more upheaval into their lives: can they endure it, or will they, like so many, be swept aside by history's tide?

A moving tale of prejudice, struggle, love, tragedy, bravery and the changing lives of women in the twentieth century, *The Midwife's Daughter* grips the reader all the way to its heart stopping conclusion.

Aren't We Sisters?

Following on from *The Midwife's Daughter*, *Aren't We Sisters?* is a gripping novel about buried secrets and unlikely friendship. Norah Thornby can no longer afford to live in her grand family home in the centre of Silkhampton. Unless, perhaps, she can find a respectable lodger. But Nurse Lettie Quick is not nearly as respectable as she seems. What's really going on at the clinic she has opened? And why has she chosen Silkhampton? Meanwhile the beautiful Rae Grainger has found the perfect place to stay, in an isolated house miles away from the town. It's certainly rather creepy, especially at candlelit bedtime, but Rae knows that all she has to do is stay out of sight, until others - paid, professional others - are ready to take her little problem away. Then she can just forget the whole ghastly business ...can't she?

No one guesses, of course, that there's a killer quietly at work in Silkhampton; or that in one way or another all three women are in danger...

George Gould

Mondo Kane

Sharp-talking, existentially troubled Dodger leads a frenzied life as PA and body to one of London's top crime bosses. He dreams of a better, saner existence, but fate has other plans for him. Sent to hire the services of notorious contract killer Bill Kane, little does he suspect that he is about to embark on a wild odyssey through the heart of Rio's favelas and the sizzling backlands of northeastern Brazil. His orders are simple: to help Kane hunt down and kill Captain America, the organisation's double-crossing second-in-command. But where Kane is involved, nothing remains simple for long. The instant they set foot in Rio, the unlikely duo are catapulted into a series of confrontations as bizarre as they are frightening, as comical as they are wired. Kane, who believes he is possessed by the soul of an Oglala Sioux shaman, has declared war on modern society and its evils, with cataclysmic results. But even as the mission spirals out of control, Dodger finds himself little by little beginning to share in Kane's unusual views on life, death and what it means to be human.

Part gangster thriller in the *Get Carter* mould, part wild road-trip romp à la *Fear and Loathing*, this is a thousand-volt, turbo-paced tale that reads like an acid-fuelled rollercoaster ride through a war zone. The story takes you by the scruff of the neck, hurtles you halfway across the world, flips you upside-down, then drops you off at

the end, breathless and reeling. And all told in the juiciest slang-and-expletive-filled mutation the English language has spawned in years.

Katie Hutton

The Gypsy Bride

The Gypsy Bride by Katie Hutton is a cross-cultural love story set between the wars about a Methodist preacher's granddaughter who meets and falls in love with a member of a recently arrived Gypsy community.

Frances Kay

Micka

Micka loves drawing and wants a pup, but with older brothers into violence and petty crime, and a mother who can't read the notes his teacher sends home from school, neither he nor the pup stand much of a chance. Then a new boy, Laurie, starts at Micka's school. The two boys both have vivid imaginations, but Laurie's fantasies are of magic and revenge, and he soon pulls Micka into a dangerous game where the line between make-believe and real life - and, ultimately, death - is increasingly blurred. Written in direct, uncompromising yet compassionate prose, and with a breathtaking clarity of insight, Micka is an astonishingly assured debut -- and an unforgettable story.

'Micka feels like a book that wrote itself . . . Frances Kay is an accomplished story teller who has found her darkest tale' Anne Enright.

Jane Kerr

The Elephant Walk

This utterly charming and compelling novel set in Scotland and England in 1872 and based on a true story is built from the finest elements of classical story-telling. The arduous all-or-nothing physical quest of a zoo elephant's 200 mile walk from Edinburgh to Manchester mirrors the personal journeys of its wonderfully realized characters, including the young, mute and lonely but resourceful pickpocket Danny, the bold and forthright but emotionally vulnerable Hetty, and the noble but damaged elephant Maharajah. There is danger, drama, mystery, transgression and redemption. This is a potential modern classic of children's fiction.

Set in 1872, it tells the story of the wager between rival menagerie owners James Jameson and Arthur Albright. When Jameson buys the African elephant Maharajah at a bankruptcy auction in Edinburgh his plan to transport the animal by train to his Belle Vue Zoological Gardens in Manchester hits a snag when the elephant destroys the freight carriage. Rashly, Jameson bets Albright that the elephant will walk to

Manchester within seven days – the winner will take all of his rival's menagerie of animals. During the excitement of the auction a young, mute pickpocket – known only to us as 'Boy' – is apprehended, losing all his stolen goods and knowing only too well the retribution that awaits him from his violent master Scatcherd. But at a moment of crisis he suddenly discovers some kind of affinity with the distressed elephant and before he knows what is happening he is enlisted to star in the marketing spectacle of the elephant walk, disguised as the Indian 'Prince Dandip'.

As the perilous journey proceeds, Boy meets and befriends the ebullient Hetty and her father, has his life saved by Maharajah, comes up against the sinister Crimple, and nurses a growing suspicion that their progress to Manchester is being followed very closely by someone who does not wish them well.

Maria McCann

As Meat Loves Salt

Torn in two by a savage civil war, seventeenth century England was the scene of extraordinary violence. Among the soldiers traveling across the country from one deadly battle to another is Jacob Cullen, a former servant who dreams of baptizing himself with the blood of battle into a new life after the war. Only his burgeoning erotic obsession with a fellow fighter threatens his plans. A dark, erotic tale of passion and obsession, AS MEAT LOVES SALT is a gripping portrait of England best by War, and the harrowing tale of a dangerous man on the edge of madness.

The Wilding

In her second novel Maria McCann returns to 17th Century England, where life is struggling to return to normal after the horrific tumult of the Civil War. In the village of Spadboro Jonathan Dymond, a 26-year old cider-maker who lives with his parents, has until now enjoyed a quiet, harmonious existence. As the novel opens, a letter arrives from his uncle with a desperate request to speak with his father. When his father returns from the visit the next day, all he can say is that Jonathan's uncle has died. Then Jonathan finds a fragment of the letter in the family orchard, with talk of inheritance and vengeance. He resolves to unravel the mystery at the heart of his family - a mystery which will eventually threaten the lives and happiness of Jonathan and all those he holds dear.

Ace, King, Knave

Set in Regency England, Maria's new novel is a dark and disturbing account of a twisted love triangle between two women and the mysterious Mr Zedland, a professional card sharp and the son of a London madam. His true love is Betsy Ann, but he marries Sofia to take her off her father's hands and to secure his own financial future. What follows is a destructive chain of deception and double-crossing, in which

no one is quite what they seem, and betrayal emerges as a most powerful challenge to love and loyalty.

Jane Menczer

An Unlikely Agent

Set in London before the First World War, it is narrated by Margaret Trant, who lives with her ailing, irascible mother in a boarding house in St John's Wood. Since the death of her father, Margaret and her mother have fallen on hard times, with only Margaret's meagre salary from Plimpson & Co to keep them afloat. When circumstances force Margaret to leave her employer, she finds herself mysteriously guided into a new position as a secretary in a dingy backstreet shop. But all is not as it seems, and she is in fact working for a highly secret branch of the intelligence service, whose mission is to track down and neutralize the ruthless band of anarchists known as The Scorpions. Margaret's love of mystery fiction scarcely prepares her for the reality of true criminality, and her journey of self-discovery forms the heart of this remarkable novel, as she discovers in herself resourcefulness, courage, independence and the first stirrings of love.

Barbara Mitchelhill

Run Rabbit Run

When Lizzie's dad refuses to fight in the Second World War, the police come looking to arrest him. Desperate to stay together, Lizzie and her brother Freddie go on the run with him, hiding from the police in idyllic Whiteway. But when their past catches up with them, they're forced to leave and it becomes more and more difficult to stay together as a family. Will they be able to? And will they ever find a place, like Whiteway, where they will be safe again? A novel for children.

The Road to London

Thomas is desperate to join 'the players', he'll do anything to watch them perform, even skip school and risk a caning. But when Thomas's rule breaking gets him in trouble with more than just his school master, he has to flee his home and make his way to London. Here he meets his hero, Shakespeare, and his players. But behind the excitement of the theatres is a grimy world of deception, poison and treason. Will Thomas manage to uncover the plot in time? And will he manage to save Shakespeare from a fate worse than death? A novel for children.

Chris Neilan**Abattoir Jack**

At the age of 22, Jack is going nowhere. Stuck in a New Mexico backwater, slicing dead cattle for a living, he is ready to seize any opportunity to make something of his life. So when his workmate Ed tells him about the \$25,000 stashed in a bus station locker in San Francisco, and when he meets and falls for the beautiful De S'anna, a sweet Italian supernova of sweat and lips and purple-black hair, the two events propel him into a journey of love, drugs, madness and determination as he tries to make real those two seductive mirages, the accidental fortune and the perfect love. Christopher Neilan's debut novel is a coruscating tale told in vibrant, visceral prose. Funny, sexy, poetic, thrilling and endlessly inventive, 'Abattoir Jack' is a very impressive achievement.

Joanna Price**A Means of Escape**

A grizzly and cold November morning. Detective Sergeant Kate Linton is called on Glastonbury Tor where a young woman has been strangled. Twelve holes are found at the scene, surrounded by wax, evidence of garden flares - the only connection to two other unsolved cases. When another young woman and a TV celebrity go missing, Linton is in a race against time to find the serial killer before he strikes again. But, when her journalist ex-boyfriend is singled out as a chief suspect, Linton feels that events are heading a bit too close to home. A Means of Escape presents an intricate, gripping mystery plot, combined with a focus on the heroine's personal life as she juggles an unwelcome attraction for her good-looking and charismatic superior with her efforts to become closer to her estranged family. A Means of Escape is the first in a series of psychologically driven crime novels.

Eeny Meeny Miny Mo

One murdered celebrity. One improbable suspect. A serial rapist on the loose. Linton and Brown's most complex case yet. When former supermodel, Lauren Hampton, is found suffocated in the drawing room of her Glastonbury mansion, DS Kate Linton and her superior, DI Rob Brown, begin one of the most intricate investigations of their career. Set against the backdrop of a series of vicious rapes, the truth about Hampton's past gradually emerges, along with the clues as to who and why someone may have wanted her dead. Full of twists and turns, suspects and red herrings, this contemporary 'who-dunnit' is as much about resolving the relationship between Linton and her charismatic superior, as it is about solving a crime. Eeny Meeny Moe is the second in the series of mysteries featuring a gutsy new heroine in a one-of-a-kind location.

Audrey Reimann

Flora's War

When the orphaned Flora MacDonald escapes from a harsh reform school she falls - literally - into the arms of Andrew Stewart, a handsome sailor on shore leave. But their blossoming love is interrupted by the outbreak of the Second World War.

With Andrew away fighting, Flora finds herself in an impossible situation: alone and pregnant. Out of desperation, she travels to Andrew's country estate, but she doesn't know how kindly his well-to-do family will welcome her in. Will she find a home where she can raise a child?

The Runaway

Will he ever find what he's looking for?

Oliver Wainwright is still a boy when he first sets eyes on the fair, delicate Florence – the aristocratic granddaughter of Sir Philip Oldfield. And, determined never to be a servant or follow in his father's footsteps as a quarry worker on the Oldfield estate, he runs away to Middlefield, that very day.

Slowly but surely, he sets about becoming a man of property and a cotton industry king. He works single-mindedly to achieve his ambition – until he meets Rosie, a married mill hand who distracts him with her dark, warm beauty. Has Oliver finally found what he really wanted all along?

Set against a background of the Lancashire/Cheshire cotton industry, *The Runaway* is a magnificent saga of a young man's rise to power, his passion and poverty, feuds and triumphs and the two very different women who shape his life.

Mill Town Girl

After the tragic death of her parents, Caroline Shrigley is left with the responsibility of bringing up her younger sister, Jane, as well as running the family business at the Temperance Hotel. Carrie is beginning to think her care-free days are gone forever when Patrick Kennedy, a wild, handsome and passionate Irishman, turns her world upside down. The life she's dreamed of is finally within reach – until a devastating betrayal changes everything.

Left with a newborn baby to care for, Carrie has some difficult choices to make. What must she sacrifice to protect her baby?

A Sister's Courage

Eldest child Alice Davenport has always helped to look after her younger brothers and sister when her Mama was unwell. But when her Mama dies suddenly and her Papa leaves to fight in the war, young Alice is left to care for her family alone.

When her Papa returns home safe, Alice's troubled days seem to be over. And when she meets the handsome Major Fredrick Blackshaw, a new life finally seems to be within reach. But when her Papa remarries, the jealousy of their new stepmother leaves Alice fearing for the safety of her siblings. Will she sacrifice her own happiness to keep her family safe?

A gritty, heart-warming family saga perfect for fans of Maggie Hope, Val Wood and Emma Hornby.

Simon Rowbottom

Thimblerigger

Lockton Leather is no ordinary patient. Physically and mentally scarred, he looks back from extreme old age to a remote past as a Thimblerigger among the criminal underworld of Victorian Liverpool. It was a life fraught with hardship and danger; one which returns to threaten everything he holds dear. But how can this be, when he is telling his story in 1999? Drawn ever deeper into Lockton's life history, Dr Sam Stockwell, the psychologist assigned to work with him, finds it increasingly hard to extricate reality from fiction, till he finally begins to suspect that the old man may actually be telling the truth. Within this framing narrative lies the extraordinarily imaginative and compelling history of a Victorian child, orphaned and drawn into a life of petty crime, as a Thimblerigger, which leads him into events of shocking darkness, brutality and tragedy. As these terrible events unfold, Lockton's tireless attempts to create a new life of love and happiness are persistently thwarted and he learns the difficulty of escaping from his past, the consequences of evil, and his own fate.

Trisha Sakhlecha

Your Truth or Mine?

Set in India and London, Your Truth or Mine? tells the story of British-Indian couple Roy and Mia, who seem to have it all, until a young woman goes missing and with each lie, their meticulously curated life begins to unravel. Narrated in turn by Mia and Roy, their dysfunctional marriage is slowly revealed. We follow their journey as each becomes drawn into a labyrinth of unfulfilled desires, childhood trauma which puts them both at huge risk. It has a pleasing, internal seductive logic and is taut page-turner.

Trisha is working on her second novel, also under contract to Macmillan, again set partially in India which brings a whole new aspect to this area of fiction.

Charlotte Seager

My (Secret) YouTube Life

What if your favourite YouTuber's life was a lie?

What if you were the one to expose it?

YouTuber LilyLoves has an amazing life: a rockstar boyfriend, a totally Insta-worthy London flat and a collection of beauty products that seems to grow daily (thanks, PO Box).

Sixteen-year-old Melissa's life is way less amazing – LilyLoves is the only thing getting her through it. She's Lily's biggest fan and spends hours each night watching her videos and liking her posts. Melissa wants that life for herself – or at least to look like she has it . . .

As Melissa starts to grow in confidence – and followers - she discovers a crushing secret about Lily

– the ultimate YouTube lie. Does she share Lily's secret and crush her fame? Or will they both continue to live a lie – both online and off?

My (Secret) YouTube Life is the addictive debut novel from Charlotte Seager.

Follow Me Like Me

When sixteen-year-old Chloe replies to a DM from a gorgeous stranger, she has no idea what she's inviting into her life. As her online fan becomes increasingly obsessive, her real life starts to come apart at the seams and Chloe realizes she needs to find a way to stop him before things spiral out of control.

Misfit Amber's online obsession with her personal trainer begins to creep into the real world. But when she hears a terrible rumor about him, she drops everything to try and prove his innocence – even if it means compromising her own.

In Follow Me, Like Me by Charlotte Seager, Amber and Chloe might find that the truth is much harder to swallow than the lies.

Hannah Tovey

The Education of Ivy Edwards

Sometimes, heartbreak can be the best education . . . Ivy Edwards is thirty-one years old, funny, shameless and bit of a romantic. She's also just been dumped by her fiance, her mum is incapable of acting her age, and right now drink seems like the answer to everything. With her London life in tatters and her home life in the Welsh valleys a shambles, Ivy doesn't feel she actually belongs anywhere. But she still has her friends, her family - and a little vodka. Embarking on a journey of singlehood, Ivy is about to discover that sometimes, having your life fall apart can be surprisingly fun. It might just be the best way of working out who Ivy Edwards really is - and where she should be going. In a colourful mix of Fleabag meets Gavin and Stacey, this is a poignant and laugh-out-loud story featuring a strong heroine falling apart and finding herself. Ivy speaks with an openness and boldness that feels completely right for the times.

Elizabeth Woodcraft

Good Bad Woman

Sharp, streetwise and totally engaging, Good Bad Woman is a slice of London life with a twist, and the first in a new series featuring the irresistible Frankie Richmond

Frankie Richmond is a London barrister long on attitude and short on lucrative work. Her chaotic private life interrupts her professional one far too often but never so dangerously as when she agrees to defend an old friend. A routine appearance at a magistrate's court catapults Frankie into a nightmare from which she wakes up to find herself arrested – for murder.

The police would love to see her go down so Frankie sets out to solve the case herself – while trying to revive her flagging career, disentangle her mercurial friendships and meet the woman of her dreams. As she steps up her search for the killer – and a particularly elusive Sir Douglas Quintet track – Frankie's talent for sowing confusion is given full rein, particularly when clearing her name involves exposing some unsavoury truths about those closest to her.

Baby Face

Second in the sparky crime series featuring Tamla Motown-loving barrister Frankie Richmond.

Barrister and sometime detective Frankie Richmond has never been any good at saying no – a fatal weakness that always leads to big trouble.

In Birmingham for a child abuse inquiry, Frankie reluctantly agrees to fill in at a corpseless murder trial for one day only. But walking away from a juicy crime brief was never going to be easy. Especially when the defendant's girlfriend, who begs her for help to prove his innocence, is Frankie's idea of gorgeous.

Soon she knows far more about the Birmingham underworld – and the leather sofa business – than is sensible for someone who's off the case. Add to that a spot of breaking and entering, joy riding and bullet dodging and Frankie needs to track down the real murderer fast – if there's been a murder at all.

Frankie's chaotic approach to crime solving whistles along to the strains of Joe Cocker and the Four Tops in this follow up to Motown murder mystery Good Bad Woman.

The Saturday Girls

It's 1964. England has shaken off its post-war gloom and the world is full of possibilities.

Best friends Sandra and Linda live on a housing estate in Essex. They are aspiring mods: they have the music, the coffee bar and Ready Steady Go! on a Friday night.

Having landed their first jobs, Linda and Sandra look set. But the world is changing rapidly, and both girls have difficult choices to make. As Sandra blindly pursues a proposal, Linda finds herself drawn to causes she knows are worth fighting for.

But when Sandra's quest leads her to local bad boy Danny, she lands both her and Linda in more trouble than they bargained for.

The Girls From Greenway

A dramatic and nostalgic saga of two sisters coming of age in 1960s Essex.

Angie Smith lives in Greenway, Chelmsford, with her elder sister Doreen, their struggling mother and their drunk, violent father. Bored of her job, and of her dull, ordinary boyfriend, Angie dreams of bigger and better things. But then she meets boutique owner Gene Battini. He is older, handsome, charming - and married. She is completely swept off her feet. But little does she know that Doreen is falling for Gene, too, and that their affair will have disastrous consequences.

As things at home go from bad to worse, Angie and Doreen must struggle to fight for what they want.

Can the girls from Greenway ever achieve their dreams?

ANNETTE GREEN AGENCY (Non-Fiction)

Tim Bradford

Small Town England

After the success of IS SHANE MCGOWAN STILL ALIVE? and THE GROUNDWATER DIARIES, Tim Bradford's third non-fiction book is SMALL TOWN ENGLAND, a memoir of music, girls, teenage angst and escape. Tim is 43 years old, and like many of us grew up in a quiet town with dreams of leaving it behind. He became a teenager as Punk's dying embers finally faded, leaving behind an amorphous, endlessly splintered 'new wave' scene. Thanks to Punk's do it yourself philosophy, teenagers like Tim firmly believed that all you needed was a guitar and plenty of drive to escape the confines of small town life, to win the admiration of girls and grab fame and fortune. Tim's account of the years from 1979 to 1983 in the sleepy Lincolnshire town of Market Rasen will chime with millions who remember so clearly what it was like to be a teenager at a time when the world was their oyster, but the future was a clam. It's the story of Everyteen in Everytown. True, funny, sad, poignant, moving, melancholic, it's a book in which a whole generation can share the reflection of authentic experience and which our children might one day read to understand what a bizarre foreign country we lived in as youngsters.

Malcolm Burgess

Malcolm Burgess is a successful author and freelance journalist, currently writing THINGS CAN ONLY GET WORSE, a very entertaining examination of office life in the recession. A timely successor to his previous very popular books, his new project explores every corner of the world of the office – always a fertile environment for humour, but now in the recession lent an extra dimension of grim comedy. Malcolm's comic observational skills have already brought him success in I HATE THE OFFICE and FORTYFIED: HOW TO BE A FORTYSOMETHING, and he has written regularly for The Times, Metro, Evening Standard, The Bookseller and The Guardian. He has also written comedy series and plays for Radio 3 and 4, most recently FEAR AND LOATHING IN CROUCH END.

David Cromwell

David has written a compulsively readable, eye-opening work of non-fiction, entitled WHY ARE WE THE GOOD GUYS? David Cromwell is co-founder of Media Lens, a very well-respected monitoring organization which is a constant thorn in the side of politicians, business and the media. His book is the logical corollary of his work in

that organization. The premise of David's argument is that we in the west have become so unthinkingly conditioned to one view of the way the world works – and of the west's role in it - that we simply find it impossible to question what we are seeing. Occasionally some will swipe at easy targets with empty gestures like calling Tony Blair a war criminal or chanting 'let's impeach the President', but these impotent attacks on untouchable individuals merely serve to reaffirm our sense of living in a fair-minded, equitable, enlightened liberal society. David's book is not an easy read, as it forces us to confront very unpleasant truths about the society and political system we live in – truths many of us may already have half-consciously acknowledged, but prefer to overlook. But this is not a book simply designed to shock and depress – it's invigorating in its idealism, energizing in its moral discipline, and inspiring in its call to arms. It's an utterly compelling read with a very important message.

Chris Gordon

The Book of Weird Sex

An extraordinarily entertaining and informative compendium of true stories from the strangest reaches of human sexual behaviour. Bizarre practices, prejudices, contraptions, cures, misconceptions and misadventures - all this and more awaits the reader of this very funny book, which was published by Allison & Busby in October 2004.

Jamie Ivey

Jamie is the author of three non-fiction books about his life as a wine seller, trying, among other things, to find the palest rosé in France. EXTREMELY PALE ROSÉ, LA VIE EN ROSÉ, and ROSÉ EN MARCHÉ are all published by Weidenfeld Phoenix. His next adventure was to build his own house and start a truffle business in a hostile corner of Southern France. The fraught challenges and the satisfying accomplishments of this project are the subject of his new and immensely compelling book, TEN TREES AND A TRUFFLE DOG (Summersdale 2011).

Adam Macqueen

Adam Macqueen, a young journalist and protégé of Ian Hislop, has worked for Private Eye, The Big Issue and many other major UK publications. He is also a regular broadcaster on TV and Radio.

The King of Sunlight

Adam's first book, a hugely entertaining biography of the eccentric, late Victorian millionaire-businessman-philanthropist Lord Leverhulme, founder of Lever Bros.

Some of his ideas were decades ahead of their time - universal suffrage, workers' profit shares - others bordered on insanity. Leverhulme's life is a genuinely startling story.

Private Eye: The First 50 Years

Commissioned by Little Brown to write a very entertaining exploration of the extraordinary facts, figures and anecdotes which reach the public domain after the release of governments document after the thirty-year restriction expires.

The Prime Minister's Ironing Board and Other State Secrets

The extraordinary and often unbelievable range of state secrets kept from the public eye for decades and was published in October 2013.

Ian Marchant

Parallel lines: Journey on the Railway of Dreams

This is a new departure and a natural progression for Ian. His fiction teems with character, incident and comic detail, but now he is turning his characteristic eye for observation, humour and surprise to one of the great shared experiences of the British nation. Parallel Lines tells the story of what Ian calls the two railways of Britain - the real railway and the railway of our dreams, the one we hate and the one we love, from the grandeur of the Victorian heyday, through the romance of Brief Encounter to the modern reality of commuter hell and signals passed at danger. Bloomsbury 2003

The Longest Crawl

The non-fiction account of his journey along the longest pub crawl route in Britain - from the Scilly Isles to the Hebrides. Turning his attention from trains to pubs, Ian will anatomise and expose another British obsession, with the fantastic flair, imagination, wit and analytical prowess that are his hallmarks. Ian is in negotiations with a major TV production company to make a series following his progress. Bloomsbury 2006

Something of the Night

(Simon & Schuster 2012) An exploration of the British people's relationship with and experience of the night time, by way of bingo halls, nightclubs, pubs, working men's clubs, police cells, city centres, bedrooms and bars. In Something of the Night, Ian Marchant offer a night owl's guide to Britain, exploring the funny and fascinating truth of what night means in Britain and what we do in the dark. He visits linen weavers and blanket makers; calls a little bingo and goes to the dogs. He learns a new skill at

evening class, goes ghost hunting with a diocesan exorcist and stands vigil with anti-war demonstrators. In the night, anything could happen.

A Hero for High Times

This will be another work of non-fiction in Ian's inimitable style – funny, perceptive, provocative and passionate. The subject this time is the rise of the counter-culture from rock 'n' roll, through the ages of the hippies, punk and rave until what Ian sees as its demise when legislation destroyed the rave scene. Ian contrasts the heady years of rebelliousness with the apathetic consumerism of today. But there will be plenty of laughs.

Lillys Miles

(London Press Club Blog of the Year 2013)

Lillys is the pseudonym for a tabloid journalist and blogger, whose online confessions of personal, marital and professional misadventure, DIARY OF A FLEET STREET FOX was published by Constable and Robinson in 2013. The blog itself is not currently accessible, but over the year that she was writing it, it became very popular and prompted frequent speculation about the identity of the pseudonymous Lillys Miles, whose experience of a car crash marriage and the ongoing excesses of tabloid journalism and the celebrity culture is brought to life in wonderfully fresh, direct, imaginative prose. In short chapters of leanly crafted immediacy, Lillys grabs the reader by the lapels and sets out on a turbulent journey of heartbreak, deceit, humour, farce and frenzy. There is jealousy and betrayal, violence and despair, but there's also friendship and loyalty, family love, and above all a determination to survive. It's an extraordinarily compelling read with real vigour and originality. It also contains photographs as documentary evidence of the extraordinary ritual New Year's Eve burning of Lillys's wedding dress. This is a highly entertaining true-life story from a very talented and extremely promotable writer.

Charles Pasternak

QUEST is a highly original contribution to the debate on Darwinism, DNA, genetics and the past and future development of human civilisation. It is at once authoritative and accessible, combining erudition, enthusiasm and the infectious energy of the true polymath. Not content with current thinking on how civilisation has developed, Professor Pasternak has addressed himself to the intractable question of why - a question that is philosophical, scientific and cultural. In QUEST he propounds a compelling theory of how the chance collision of particular physical and mental attributes elevated an ordinary instinct for struggle into a form of human endeavour which has created and destroyed civilisations. That same endeavour is still leading us into new and controversial areas of achievement: not least in the field of Genetic Modification, an issue discussed here with a bracing and robust directness.

Charles Pasternak is a distinguished biochemist based in London but renowned internationally. He is also a member of the famous Pasternak family: his grandfather was Leonid, the impressionist painter, his uncle was Boris the Nobel prize winning novelist, his mother was Josephine the philosopher and his daughter is Anna, the writer. He is, in fact, a perfect case study for the mystery of genetic inheritance. He has previously published a number of academic books, but he is now ready to write for the wider audience which exists for high-quality popular science, and is working on his next book, about the shocking prevalence of scientific ignorance amongst the leaders and institutions of the world.

Clare Pooley

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.

Peter Shapiro

Peter is a very well-respected music journalist and TURN THE BEAT AROUND is a book which, for the first time, tells the full and extraordinary story of the musical, cultural, social and sartorial phenomenon that was Disco. As Peter explains, Disco was far more than the cartoonish construct as which it has so often been dismissed over the past twenty years. It brought about a revolution in popular culture, in the club scene, in social and sexual attitudes, in black consciousness, in the very fabric of the entertainment industry. And if you sit down again now and listen to some of the records that Peter so eloquently describes here, you will realise that, at its best, Disco gave us some of the finest popular music ever recorded. Peter tells the whole story, from the '60s to today, using a huge amount of original interview material with the people who made it all happen, as well as his own powerfully argued analysis of its impact on music, culture and society. Peter is an expert on soul music, funk, world

music, hip hop, rap and drum 'n' bass. His writing has appeared in many leading publications such as Time Out, The Wire and the NME as well as several national newspapers. He has also written a number of books in the Rough Guide music series.

The Rev. Victor Stock

TAKING STOCK: CONFESSIONS OF A CITY PRIEST. Victor Stock is the Dean of Guildford, was a regular contributor to a BBC TV series, and has also had a weekly slot on BBC radio. He has been chaplain to the Lord Mayor, and many of his friends are household names, ranging from Geoffrey Howe and Patrick Mayhew to Diana Rigg and Judi Dench. He is a fascinating and highly entertaining raconteur and his reflections embrace social, political and humanitarian issues of global importance, as well as frequently hilarious anecdotes. He has kept a Diary for 20 years and has shaped the material into a thematically focused selection. He is working on a further diary selection and other book projects. HarperCollins Autumn 2001. First serial: Daily Mail August 2001, Second serial: The Times, Sept 2001.

MYRIAD EDITIONS

Peter Adamson

The Kennedy Moment

(*just out of option from Snowed In*)

The issues central to this story are current and very important: immunization; the storage and retention of virus strains; the potential of small-scale activism to effect great change. And the universal thread which runs through it is the dynamics of friendship and the enduring power of love.

Liam Murray Bell

So it is

This novel spans the decades that saw Northern Ireland move from brutal conflict to uncertain peace in the 1990s. A political coming-of-age novel and a fast-paced thriller, it follows the story of two women: Aoife, a young girl growing up in 1980s Belfast, finds herself the last line of defence between the violence and her family as mother sinks deeper into a medicated stupor and her father leaves the family for the comfort of the local bars, and she is left to care for her brother Damien while all around her friends and neighbours are swept up in the conflict. Meanwhile Cassie, a Republican paramilitary and honeytrap, lures and seduces her victims, inflicting lasting damage. The spoiler alert is that both women are in fact the same. It is a brilliant imagining of how a young woman is radicalised.

Elizabeth Haynes

The Murder of Harriet Monckton

Historical crime novel based on unsolved murder of 23-year-old schoolteacher in Bromley, Kent in 1843. A Victorian #MeToo, this was picked by The Sunday Times and The Times in their Best Books choices.

Tammye Huf

A more Perfect Union

Irish-American epic interracial love story set in 1840s Ireland, New York and the pre-Civil War Southern state of Virginia and based on the authors great-great

grandparents: Henry O'Toole who fled the Irish famine for America and Sarah, a slave woman who is working on the same plantation.

Martine McDonagh

I have Waited, and You Have Come

This was one I thought of for Saorise too: an extraordinary story of survival in extreme conditions and a prescient dramatisation of the climate crisis: floods, 80mph winds, an new virus infecting people in the thousands.

Sally O'Reilly

Dark Aemila

England's first published female poet Amelia Lanyer reimagined as Shakespeare's Dark Lady and the true author of Macbeth.

Umi Sinha

Belonging

Page-turning epic of three generations in India and their struggles to free themselves from a troubled history steeped in colonial violence. From the show-stopping dinner party opening scene, the interwoven story of secrets unwinds through Lila's story, through her grandmother's letters home from India and the diaries kept by her father, Henry, as he puzzles over the enigma of his birth and his stormy marriage to the mysterious Rebecca.

Hannah Vincent

She-Clown

Fierce and funny feminist linked short stories, from teenage to old age: seven ages of woman (actually 16!). Hannah's writing has been compared to that of Raymond Carver, the master of the short story.

THE NORTH AGENCY

Morgan Cry

Thirty-One Bones

When Effie Coulston drops dead on the floor of her bar in a small Spanish town mid-business meeting, her daughter Daniella feels it's her duty to return for the funeral. But Daniella has been estranged from her mother for over twenty years, and Effie's life in Spain harbours many secrets. Daniella is soon confronted by a hostile group of ex-pat misfits who frequent the bar and who, along with Effie, are involved in a multi-million-pound property scam. But the money has vanished, and the ex-pats are threatening to implicate Daniella to save themselves.

Meanwhile, a Spanish detective is investigating Effie's death. He's convinced Daniella knows more than she is telling. And now a terrifying enforcer has heard about the missing cash. With no idea where the money is and threats coming from all sides, Daniella is up against a seemingly impossible deadline to find the cash. She's a stranger in a strange town – and she's seriously out of her depth.

Douglas Lindsay

Song of the Dead

DI WESTPHALL. No ordinary detective. No ordinary investigations.

A twisting new crime series set in the Scottish Highlands. For fans of Stephen King, James Oswald and John Connolly.

Detective Ben Westphall has been given his latest case because of his background in MI6. But it's his ability to see every angle – even the impossible ones – that will help him in this investigation.

John Baden has come back from the dead. His parents and girlfriend identified his body twelve years ago. Yet he's just walked into a police station, very much alive. Baden's story sounds far-fetched – but it's all about to get much, much stranger.

Westphall travels from the Highlands to Estonia in order to delve into Baden's murky past. But when his suspects start dying, Westphall realises someone is killing to cover up the truth. He'll have to question everything he's been told, before there's no one left to ask.

John Lydon

Anger is an Energy: My Life Uncensored

This is the definitive autobiography of John Lydon, one of the most recognizable icons in the annals of music history. As Johnny Rotten, he was the lead singer of the Sex Pistols - the world's most notorious band, who shot to fame in the mid-1970s with singles such as 'Anarchy in the UK' and 'God Save the Queen'. Via his music and invective he spearheaded a generation of young people across the world who were clamouring for change - and found it in the style and attitude of this most unlikely figurehead.

With his next band, Public Image Ltd (PiL) Lydon expressed an equally urgent impulse in his make-up - the constant need to reinvent himself. From their beginnings in 1978 he set the template for a band that continues to challenge and thrive in the 2010s. He also found time for making innovative new dance records with the likes of Afrika Baambaataa and Leftfield.

Following the release of a solo record in 1997, John took a sabbatical from his music career into other media, most memorably his own Rotten TV show for VH1 and as the most outrageous contestant ever on I'm a Celebrity ... Get Me Out of Here! He then fronted the Megabugsseries and one-off nature documentaries and even turned his hand to a series of much loved TV advertisements for Country Life butter.

Lydon has remained a compelling and dynamic figure - both as a musician, and, thanks to his outspoken, controversial, yet always heartfelt and honest statements, as a cultural commentator. The book is a fresh and mature look back on a life full of incident from his beginnings as a sickly child of immigrant Irish parents who grew up in post-war London, to his present status as a vibrant, alternative national hero.

Andy McGrath

God is Dead: The Rise and Fall of Frank Vandenbroucke, Cycling's Great Wasted Talent

The remarkable untold story of the mercurial cycling prodigy Frank Vandenbroucke, written by William Hill award-winning author Andy McGrath.

They called him God. For his grace on a bicycle, for his divine talent, for his heavenly looks. Frank Vandenbroucke had it all, and in the late Nineties he raced with dazzling speed and lived even faster.

The Belgian won several of cycling's most illustrious races, including Liège-Bastogne-Liège, Paris-Nice and Ghent-Wevelgem. He was a mix of poise and panache who enthralled a generation of cycling fans. Off the bike, he only had one enemy - himself. Vandenbroucke dabbled in nocturnal party sessions mixing sleeping pills and alcohol and regularly fell out with team managers. By 1999 his team had suspended him and this proved to be the start of a long, eventful fall from grace. Depression, a drug ban, addiction, car crashes, divorce and countless court appearances subsumed his life. He threatened his wife with a gun. He tried to commit suicide twice. And when police found performance-enhancing drugs at his house, Vandenbroucke said they were for his dog.

It seemed he had finally learned from his mistakes. Then, on 12 October 2009, aged just 34, Vandenbroucke was found dead in a hotel room in Senegal.

Guided by exclusive contributions from his family, friends and team-mates, William Hill award-winning author Andy McGrath lays bare Vandenbroucke's chaotic, complicated life and times. *God is Dead* is the remarkable biography of this mercurial cycling prodigy.

Sara Hawys Roberts & Leon Noakes

Withdrawn Traces: Searching for the Truth about Richey Manic

With Foreword by Rachel Edwards

New discoveries and a fresh perspective, with unprecedented access to Richey's personal archive

On 1 February 1995, Richey Edwards, guitarist of the Manic Street Preachers, went missing at the age of 27. On the eve of a promotional trip to America, he vanished from his London hotel room, his car later discovered near the Severn Bridge, a notorious suicide spot.

Over two decades later, Richey's disappearance remains one of the most moving, mysterious and unresolved episodes in recent pop culture history.

For those with a basic grasp of the facts, Richey's suicide seems obvious and undeniable. However, a closer investigation of his actions in the weeks and months before his disappearance just don't add up, and until now few have dared to ask the important questions.

Withdrawn Traces is the first book written with the co-operation of the Edwards family, testimony from Richey's closest friends and unprecedented and exclusive access to Richey's personal archive. In a compelling real-time narrative, the authors

examine fresh evidence, uncover overlooked details, profile Richey's state of mind, and brings us closer than ever before to the truth.

Sylvia Patterson

I'm Not with the Band

SHORTLISTED FOR THE COSTA BIOGRAPHY AWARD 2016

'Celebratory and elegiac' Guardian

'A roller-coaster memoir' Sunday Times

'Funny, anecdote-packed, nostalgic but also very touching' The Pool

'Patterson fillets out the pretentious bones of pop, leaving its glistening meat'
Observer

This is a three-decade survivor's tale . . . a scenic search for elusive human happiness through music, magazines, silly jokes, stupid shoes, useless blokes, hopeless homes, booze, drugs, love, loss, A&E, death, disillusion and hope. In 1986, Sylvia Patterson boarded a train to London armed with a tea-chest full of vinyl records, a peroxide quiff and a dream: to write about music, for ever. She got her wish. Escaping a troubled home, Sylvia embarks on a lifelong quest to discover The Meaning of It All. The problem is she's mostly hanging out with flaky pop stars, rock 'n' roll heroes and unreliable hip-hop legends. As she encounters music's biggest names, she is confronted by glamour and tragedy; wisdom and lunacy; drink, drugs and disaster. And Bros.

Here is Madonna in her Earth Mother phase, flinging her hands up in horror at one of Sylv's Very Stupid Questions. Prince compliments her shoes while Eminem threatens to kill her. She shares fruit with Johnny Cash, make-up with Amy Winehouse and several pints with the Manics' lost soul-man Richey Edwards. She finds the Beckhams fragrant in LA, a Gallagher madferrit in her living room and Shaun Ryder and Bez as you'd expect, in Jamaica.

From the 80s to the present day, I'm Not with the Band is a funny, barmy, utterly gripping chronicle of the last thirty years in music and beyond. It is also the story of one woman's wayward search for love, peace and a wonderful life. And whether, or not, she found them.