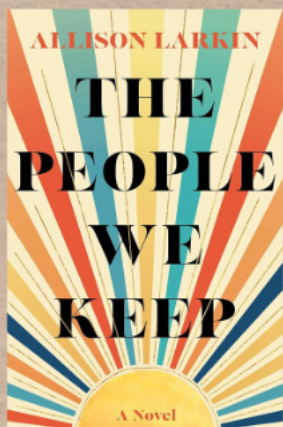


2026 RIGHTS CATALOGUE

FICTION CATALOGUE



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LITERARY AGENCY SINCE 1962



THE PEOPLE WE KEEP

by Allison Larkin

Simon & Schuster, 343 p

SOLD TO Munhaksasang (Korea).
OTHER TRANSLATION RIGHTS
AVAILABLE



HOME OF THE AMERICAN CIRCUS

by Allison Larkin

Simon & Schuster, 432 p

TRANSLATION RIGHTS
AVAILABLE

"Larkin writes from the heart about yearning, giving readers characters to fall in love with, while grabbing them with her honest, believable prose." - Diablo Magazine.

Little River, New York, 1994: April Sawicki is living in a run-down motorhome, flunking out of school, and picking up shifts at the local diner. But when April realizes she's finally had enough—enough of her selfish, absent father and barely surviving in an unfeeling town—she decides to make a break for it. Stealing a car and with only her music to keep her company, April hits the road, determined to live life on her own terms. She manages to scrape together a meaningful existence on the road, encountering people and places that grab hold of her heart. From lifelong friendships to tragic heartbreaks, April chronicles her journey in the beautiful music she creates as she discovers that home is with the people you choose to keep. This unflinching, lyrical tale is perfect for anyone who has ever yearned for the fierce power of belonging or to understand the profound beauty of a family found along the way.

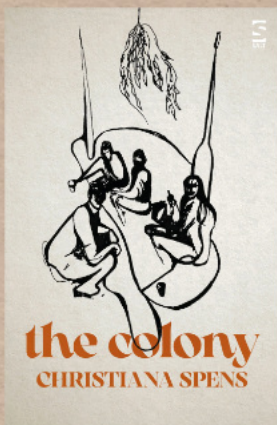
Allison Larkin is the internationally bestselling author of the novels, *The People We Keep*, *Stay*, *Why Can't I Be You*, and *Swimming for Sunlight*. Her short fiction has been published in the *Summerset Review* and *Slice*, and nonfiction in the anthologies, *I'm Not the Biggest Bitch in This Relationship* and *Author in Progress*.

The acclaimed author of the "lyrical coming-of-age novel" (*Good Morning America*) *The People We Keep* returns with a luminous new story of redemption, breaking generational curses, and the power of family in its truest form.

After an emergency leaves her short on rent, thirty-year old Freya Arnalds bails on her lackluster life as bartender in Maine and returns to her suburban hometown of Somers, New York, to live in the house she inherited from her estranged parents.

Despite attempts to lay low, Freya encounters childhood friends, familial enemies, and old flames - as well as her fifteen-year-old niece, Aubrey, who is secretly living in the derelict home. As they reconnect, Freya and Aubrey lean on each other, working to restore the house and come to terms with the devastating events that pulled them apart years ago.

Set in the birthplace of the American circus, this deeply moving novel is an exploration of broken families, the weight of the past, and the complicated journey of finding home.

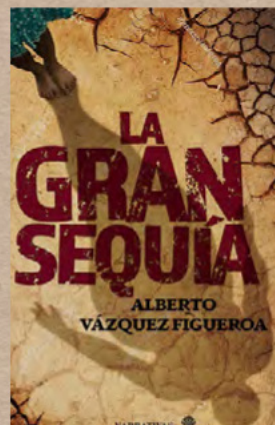


THE COLONY

by **Christiana Spens**

Salt Publishing, 280 p

TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE



THE GREAT DROUGHT

by **A. Vázquez-Figueroa**

Edhasa, 200 p

**GERMAN, ITALIAN, POLISH,
ROMANIAN AND TURKISH
TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE**

A new literary novella by Scottish writer Christiana Spens.

This is a satirical exploration of the wellness industry, the human desire for escapism, and the ways in which we are all contagious, in the end. Reminiscent of authors such as Shirley Jackson, Emma Cline, Sophie MacIntosh, as well as films like *Midsommar* and *The Wickerman*, this is a satirical exploration of the wellness industry, the human desire for escapism, and the ways in which we are all contagious, in the end.

After a painful breakup, Lena escapes to an artists' colony on a remote Scottish island, but as the idyllic retreat unravels into paranoia and decay – with dead birds washing ashore and tensions rising – she discovers that the quest for wellness may be more toxic than healing. In an age obsessed with wellness, escapism, and curated perfection, *The Colony* offers a chilling, thought-provoking reflection on how easily utopias can become dystopias.

Christiana Spens is a critic and essayist. The author of four books, her most recent was *The Fear* (2023) published by Repeater Books. She also writes regularly for publications such as *The New Statesman*, *The Irish Times*, *Glamour*, *Stylist*, *Literary Hub*, *The London Magazine*, *Prospect* and *Studio International* on culture, psychology and politics, and sometimes works as an illustrator for books by *Granta*, *NYRB*, and other publishers.

"The space a woman occupies in her husband's heart is the same space she occupies in his bed". Such is the tradition in the isolated semi-nomadic camps of the Mauritanian desert. The more a woman weighs, the more benefit she will mean for the family, the better the dowry they will be able to marry her, and because of this they fatten them more and more with cattle feed, an ancestral practice that still survives today receives the name of *leblouh*.

When Laila discovers that there are other worlds and other women with better lives when she turns fifteen, she decides to escape. She sets out on a dangerous journey and, thanks to the help of Menelik, a former Senegalese slave, she tries to find her freedom and that of the women around her. And in this desperate flight she will discover fascinating places, incredible characters and the biggest problem that humanity has faced, is facing and will continue to face: the lack of water.

Alberto Vázquez-Figueroa is a writer, journalist, filmmaker and inventor. He worked as a special envoy for *Destino*, *La Vanguardia* and *TVE* covering wars and revolutions in countries such as Congo, Guinea, Dominican Republic, Bolivia, Guatemala... He has more than a hundred internationally successful titles to his credit, and is one of the most widely read contemporary authors in Spain and the world, with more than 30 million books sold. A dozen of his novels have been made into films. Among his memorable works: *Tuareg*, *Ébano*, *the Cienfuegos saga*, *Océano*, *Ícaro*, *Panamá Panamá*, *Saud el Leopardo*, *Bora Bora*, *Manaos*.



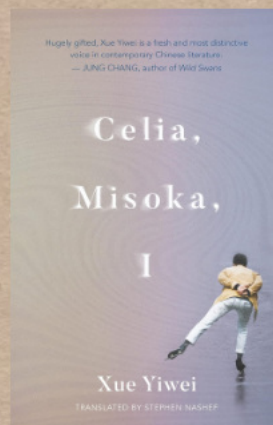
UXOA

The Secret of the Valley

by **Paloma San Basilio**

Harper Collins Iberica, 384p

**TRANSLATION RIGHTS
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CELIA, MISOKA, I

by **Xue Yivei**

Rare Machines, 280 p

**TRANSLATION RIGHTS
AVAILABLE**

After the death of her older sister and lifelong companion, Ágara, devastated, leaves the family home in the Madrid neighborhood of Chamberí to take refuge in Uxoá, the ancestral house inherited in the Baztán Valley, in Navarre. There, she gradually regains her lost sense of calm. At the same time, a need awakens in her: the desire to delve into her origins in order to understand how Uxoá, the treasured family heirloom, came into their possession. Slowly, the misty meadows and ancient stones begin to draw her in - along with their mysteries - and she embarks on a delicate investigation among the neighbors, the parish, and the abbey of Arizcun. In this personal pilgrimage, she finds an unexpected ally: Íñigo, a young Argentine descended from emigrants, who has returned to take charge of the inheritance left by his bachelor uncle in Irurita, a nearby village...

A beautiful and moving novel, which unfolds between the present, the 16th century, and the 18th century. A journey from the Baztán Valley to Tibet, from Cádiz to the port of Callao in Peru. A story of love and secrets, of personal discovery, and of unforgettable landscapes.

Paloma San Basilio has received numerous awards and honors, among them the Grammy for Musical Excellence and the Gold Medal of Merit in the Fine Arts, awarded by the Spanish Ministry of Culture. In addition to her autobiography *The Girl Who Danced in the Rain*, she is the author of the novel *The Ocean of Memory*.

Celia, Misoka, I shows the plight of modern men and women in the era of globalization through the suspenseful life stories of the three characters. Xue skillfully employs a narrative structure similar to that of a detective novel, in which the characters take turns to reveal the darkest memories of the enigmatic women.

- World Literature Today

Set in modern-day Montreal, *Celia, Misoka, I* is the story of a middle-aged Chinese man who has been living in the city for fifteen years. After the death of his wife, he begins to reflect on his past and how he has ended up alone in Canada, a solitary member of the Chinese diaspora. It is in this period of angst and uncertainty, during the most unusual of winters, that he meets two women by Beaver Lake, on Montreal's Mount Royal. They, too, have their own stories: stories of their own personal plights, which connect present to past, and West to East. The distinct paths taken by these three characters - Celia, Misoka, and "I" - span continents and decades, but, whether by chance or design, converge in Montreal, like mysterious figures in an ancient Chinese Zen painting. After coming together, the three begin to examine who they are, where they might belong, and how to navigate otherness and identity in a globalized world.

Xue Yivei is the acclaimed author of twenty books, including *Desertion*, *Dr. Bethune's Children*, and *Shenzheners*, as well as *The Empty Nest*, which topped major literary charts in China. His books have been translated into English, French, and Swedish.

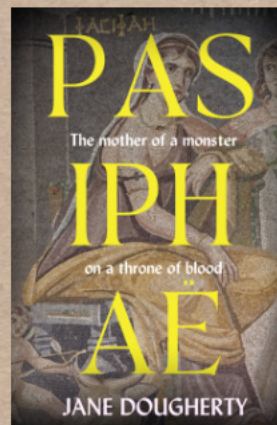


AT THE PALACES OF KNOSSO

by **Nikos Kazantzakis**

Ohio Swallow, 280 p

**BULGARIAN, DANISH, FINNISH,
FRENCH, ITALIAN, NORWEGIAN,
ROMANIAN AND SWEDISH
TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE**



PASIPHAË

by **Jane Dougherty**

Legend Press, 320 p

**GERMAN AND ITALIAN
TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE**

Rich with philosophical depth and lyrical prose, *At the Palaces of Knossos* is more than a mythological retelling—it is a meditation on power, freedom, and the eternal struggle between fate and human will. Perfect for fans of historical fiction and Greek mythology, this novel offers a compelling journey into one of the ancient world's most fascinating eras.

At the Palaces of Knossos is a vivid reimagining of ancient Crete, blending history and mythology into an epic tale of heroism, love, and destiny. Set against the grandeur of the Minoan court, the novel brings to life the legendary stories of Theseus, the Minotaur, Ariadne, Daedalus, and Icarus. The story follows Theseus, the prince of Athens, who arrives in Crete as part of the annual tribute of young Athenians sent to feed the monstrous Minotaur. Determined to end this brutal cycle, he infiltrates the labyrinthine palace of Knossos, where he crosses paths with Princess Ariadne. Struggling between loyalty to her people and her love for the courageous stranger, Ariadne risks everything to help Theseus in his quest. Kazantzakis transports readers into the splendor of Minoan culture - its sacred rituals, breathtaking bull-leaping ceremonies, and vibrant city life. But as Theseus prepares to face his destiny, a tragic chain of events unfolds, leading to heartbreak, betrayal, and the downfall of a once-mighty civilization.

Nikos Kazantzakis (1883–1957), world-renowned Greek literary figure and nine-time Nobel Prize in Literature nominee, wrote masterpieces such as *Zorba the Greek* and *The Last Temptation of Christ*.

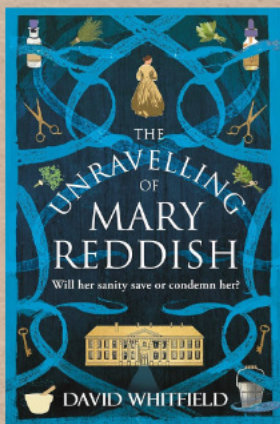
An incredible feminist retelling of a woman wronged by myth, *Pasiphaë* is a reimagining of the story of the Queen of Crete before Theseus and the myth of the Minotaur replaced her historical reality.

This book would fit on the same shelf as Madeleine Miller's *Circe*, but is closer to the historical style of Pat Barker's *Silence of the Girls* and *The Women of Troy*.

A queen. A mother. A monster. A throne built on blood. Princess Pasiphae of Kolchis is sent to Knossos to secure the throne, but she soon finds herself entangled in a brutal power struggle. As the Mother cult demands blood and Minos seeks to overturn ancient rule, she fights to protect her children; Asterion, her gentle son marked as a monster, and Ariadne, the ambitious daughter who rejects her.

Betrayals, sacrifices, and shifting allegiances shape the kingdom's fate. When Theseus arrives to claim his prize, Knossos falls, leaving Pasiphae to face the ghosts of all she has lost.

Jane Dougherty was brought up in an Irish Catholic community in the West Riding's Heavy Woollen District, a heady combination which explains her lasting fascination with myth and ancient culture.

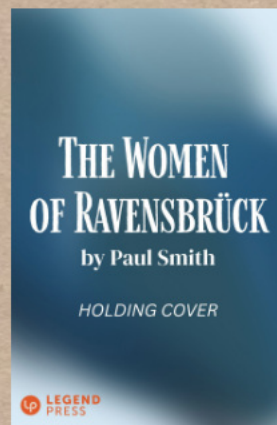


THE UNRAVELLING OF MARY REDDISH

by **David Whitfield**

Legend Press, 288 p

**GERMAN AND ITALIAN
TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE**



THE WOMEN OF RAVENSBRÜCK

by **Paul Smith**

Legend Press, 320 p

**GERMAN AND ITALIAN
TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE**

Inspired by the true story of the first county lunatic asylum in England

Nottingham, 1827. Mary Reddish, a young housemaid unjustly committed after defying her employer's advances, must navigate the brutal treatments of the county asylum while trying to prove her sanity. Meanwhile, Ann and Thomas Morris, the asylum's matron and director, struggle to uphold humane practices against outdated medical methods that haunt the institution.

As Mary forms an unlikely alliance with a fellow patient, she finds herself at the centre of a battle between compassion and cruelty that will determine the course of her life – and the future of the asylum itself.

Inspired by real events that took place at England's first publicly funded asylum in Nottingham, *The Unravelling of Mary Reddish* is an extraordinary work of historical fiction that captivates from the first page and never lets go, while shining a light on the brutal reality of mental health care in Georgian Britain.

David Whitfield has worked as a journalist for 25 years and is currently working for The Guardian. He used to live less than half a mile away from the site of the asylum featured in the novel, in the Nottingham suburb of Sneinton.

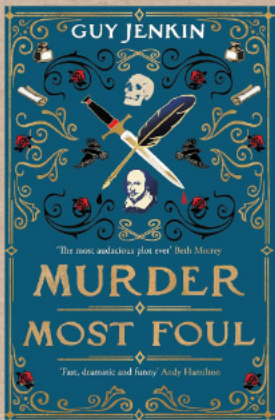
Inside the brutal walls of Ravensbrück, the notorious Nazi concentration camp for women, six strangers are bound by fate. Among them are Sarah Rothstein, a Jewish bookkeeper; Marie Laurent, a fierce French resistance fighter; and Zofia Nowicki, a Polish nurse with quiet strength. Thrown together in a place of cruelty, they endure the unthinkable. But even in a place built to break them, they refuse to be broken.

Through silent acts of rebellion, secret messages, and sheer willpower, they build an unshakable bond and a covert network of resistance. With grit, cunning, and quiet defiance, they wield their unique skills to sabotage their captors from within, daring to reclaim their humanity in a place designed to destroy it. Each woman draws on her unique skills to strike back from within, risking everything to reclaim their humanity and protect each other.

These were real women. Real heroes and a powerful tribute to female resilience, unity, and quiet rebellion against the unspeakable. Their story needs to be remembered.

Their determined unity and the secret network of information they construct, reflect the real-life acts of resistance carried out by women during history's darkest chapters - resonating deeply with readers drawn to true stories of female courage, resilience, and solidarity under Nazi oppression.

Paul Smith is a Canadian author.



MURDER MOST FOUL

by **Guy Jenkins**

Legend Press, 304 p

**GERMAN AND ITALIAN
TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE**



THE CYGNET PRINCE

by **G.J. Williams**

Legend Press, 304 p

**GERMAN AND ITALIAN
TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE**

"One of the best historical fiction books of 2025" The Times

Murder Most Foul is a dark, witty and fast-paced debut novel by BAFTA and Emmy award-winning co-writer of BBC One's *Outnumbered* Guy Jenkin.

It's 1593, Elizabeth I is Queen and everyone is terrified of the worst outbreak of plague in a generation. Shakespeare has only written six plays and is lagging behind his friend Christopher Marlowe, London's leading playwright. When Marlowe is stabbed to death in mysterious circumstances, rumours abound – but the one that won't go away is that Shakespeare did it to remove his greatest rival. Will is determined to clear his name, and teams up with his old flame, Marlowe's sister Ann, who has plenty of secrets of her own. In their search to solve the crime, Will and Ann uncover a dark world of treachery, murder, and corruption – which in turn provides Shakespeare with scenes and characters which will appear in his greatest plays. *Murder Most Foul* is a dark, witty and fast-paced novel, from one of Britain's best-loved screenwriters.

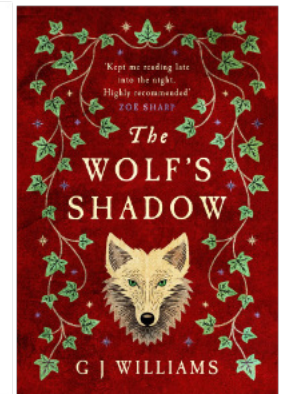
Guy Jenkins is a multi BAFTA, RTS and Emmy award-winning writer, director and producer. His television series include *Outnumbered*, *Kate & Koji* and *Drop the Dead Donkey*, all co-written with Andy Hamilton. He also wrote and directed a number of TV films including *A Very Open Prison* and *Crossing the Floor*, and two feature films, *The Sleeping Dictionary* and, with Andy Hamilton, *What We Did on Our Holiday*.

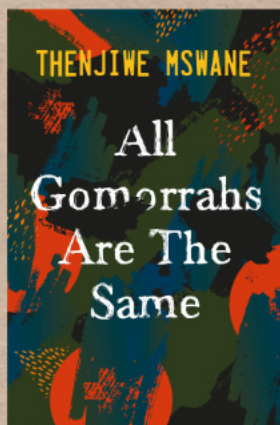
The *Tudor Rose Murders Series* **NUMBER 3!** All three titles have hit the Top50 on Amazon's Medieval Historical Fiction chart, with *The Conjuror's Apprentice* reaching as high as #8.

"Right up there with C J Sansom... A brilliant historical thriller" Philip Gwynne Jones

1561: A German prince arrives in England, claiming to be Henry VIII's lost son and the rightful heir threatening Elizabeth I's throne. As poison spreads and secrets unravel, John Dee and Margareta race across England and Germany to uncover the truth. But with betrayal and treason lurking, can they save the queen before it's too late?

G.J. Williams is a Welsh writer. She combines her interests of Wales, history, and psychology to create characters and intrigue within real historical settings and events.



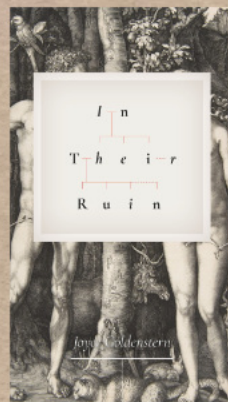


ALL GOMORRAHS ARE THE SAME

by **Thenjiwe Mswane**

Legend Press, 254 p

**GERMAN AND ITALIAN
TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE**



IN THEIR RUIN

by **Joyce Goldenstern**

Black Heron, 205 p

TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE

Shortlisted for the Sunday Times Literary Award 2022
One of Brittle Paper's 50 Most Notable African Books of 2021

This epic tale is narrated through the eyes of three women. Makhosi, who seems to be angry with the world and unable to find the language to make her mother, and sister understand her 'anger'. Duduzile, Makhosi's mother. A working-class mother who feels herself lose touch with her daughter. Nonhle, Makhosi's younger sister, who watches her sister grow while the gap between her sister and mother widen and them continuously miss each other.

The narrative unfolds the complex conversations within families - womanhood, parenting, sexuality, and mental health. It's an epic tale told through the eyes of three women, navigating the delicate threads of love, pain, and resilience within the intricate dance of family bonds.

Thenjiwe Mswane is the author of the Sunday Times Literary Awards shortlisted novel *All Gomorrahs Are the Same*. She has also written for numerous publications including HOLAfrica! the GALA Queer Archives Queer Realness. Although writing is a large aspect of her career, Thenjiwe Mswane is also a full-time public servant in Higher Education and a PhD candidate.

The narratives of *In Their Ruin* interlock to expose readers to the deep emotional wounds of three brothers, Hank, Samuel, and Felix. The three Stone brothers of Joyce Goldenstern's incisive, absorbing family novel, start out well, perhaps, with hope, perhaps, but can become calamities for everyone involved. This is a story about family, about guilt, duty, responsibility.

In Their Ruin opens in the colorful, parochial Chicago suburb of Cicero, beginning in the late 1940's when the remnants of the gang once led by Al Capone still existed and ethnic prejudices colored people's opinions. Chester, the Stone family's troubled father, is a bookie as well as a mathematical savant, and his brother is a hitman. Gladys, the mother, is from South Dakota and her family is equally influential in the development of the three children—brothers—teaching them folk tales and family legends and how to hunt and fish during long summer vacations. As time passes, street gangs exert their power over the brothers' activities, and Gladys worries about her sons' safety as well as her husband's deteriorating mental health and the family's growing financial instability. It all becomes too much for her and ultimately the brothers are left to raise themselves in both conventional and unconventional ways.

Joyce Goldenstern has published a collection of short stories ("The Story Ends - The Story Never Ends") and two chapbooks ("Way Stops Americana" and "Old Woman and Eel"). She has been awarded two Illinois Arts Council grants, a Chicago Council of Fine Arts Neighborhood Workshop grant, and a Quarterly West Novella Contest award.



ZE, SKY AND WIND

by **Francisco Narla**

Grijalbo Penguin Random House, 415 p

GERMAN, ITALIAN, POLISH, ROMENIAN AND TURKISH TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE

«One of the most versatile and talented writers in our country» La Vanguardia

Dhumbria is a remote and dark place, surrounded by a sea that swallows those who try to leave it, and where men carry their history tattooed on their skin.

Ze, a humble fisherman, has returned from the Blue Mountains with a single purpose: to avenge the death of his beloved. Determined to defeat the governor of the kingdom himself and his terrible creatures, Ze is alone in his struggle until a mysterious figure crosses his path.

However, even the allies of good keep their own dangerous secrets...

The fantastic odyssey of a man capable of giving his life for love. An epic adventure story inspired by the mythical legends of the sailors of the north.

Francisco Narla has published novels, stories, poetry, essays and practical books. In 2009 he published his first novel, *Los lobos del centeno*, which, after its success in Spain, was published in Mexico for sale throughout Latin America. *Caja negra*, his second work of fiction, was released in November 2010. Two years later the great success arrived on the name of *Assur*, his third novel, an historical adventure which became not only a bestseller but also a longseller which still occupies a won place on book stores' shelves. And *Ronin*, 2014, set the foundation to make out of Narla one of the most representative authors of Spain becoming as well a very sold novel. *Donde aullan las colinas* is his most personal work and has become a brilliant milestone in his career. *Laín* was a bestseller with more than 25.000 copies sold and won the Edhasa Narrativas Storicas award.

Also available, by the same author:



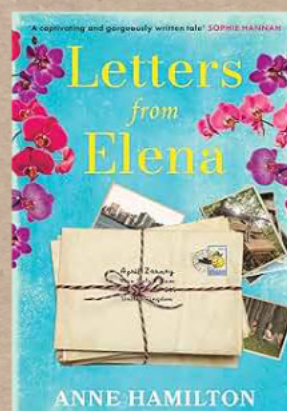


THE BARONS OF ALEPPO

by **Flavia Amabile**
and **Marco Tosatti**

Marlin, 208 p

**TRANSLATION RIGHTS
AVAILABLE**



LETTERS FROM ELENA

by **Anne Hamilton**

Legend Times, 304 p

**TRANSLATION RIGHTS
AVAILABLE**

A sweeping narrative of exile, survival, and resilience, *The Barons of Aleppo* is both an intimate family chronicle and a powerful lens on the fractured history of the Middle East through the extraordinary saga of an Armenian family and their legendary hotel, founded in Aleppo in 1911.

The story begins in late 19th-century Anatolia, as the Ottoman Empire prepares the Armenian genocide. The Mazlounian family flees with nothing but a cart, a few trunks, and an unshakable determination to rebuild their lives. In Aleppo, patriarch Krikor has a bold vision: he opens the first hotel in the region. Fortune is on his side - one year later the Orient-Express extends its line to the city, transforming Aleppo into a crossroads of power, intrigue, and diplomacy. The Baron's Hotel becomes a stage for history itself: during World War I, the Mazlounians hide journalist Aram Andonian and the crucial documents of the genocide; in the 1930s, Agatha Christie drafts *Murder on the Orient Express* on its terrace. Statesmen, spies, and adventurers pass through its doors, making the hotel a silent and charming witness to the great upheavals of the century. But glory gives way to decline. After World War II, Syria's turbulent path to independence culminates in a 1966 coup. The Baron's is nationalized, and the family fights bitterly to reclaim it. Armen, the last Mazlounian, struggles to keep the hotel alive until civil war erupts in 2012 and Aleppo is shattered by bombs.

Flavia Amabile Journalist at La Stampa, she is the author of several books. **Marco Tosatti** Veteran journalist and correspondent for La Stampa

April Zarney was ten when her best friend, Elena, disappeared. It was July 1974 and rumour was that Elena's family had headed back home to war-torn Cyprus. Thirty years later, with two failed marriages behind her and her career as concert pianist in jeopardy, April decides to run away to Cyprus to find out what really happened to her friend.

Letters from Elena is a love story exploring family, identity and displacement through the faulty memories of three generations of women, each on a journey to make sense of their lives and the world around them.

Anne Hamilton co-founded a UK based charity, Bhola's Children, supporting a home and school in Bangladesh for disabled children and remains a trustee today. The unpublished manuscript for her first novel, *The Almost Truth*, was the winner of the Irish Novel Fair.



BUDAPEST HAND

by **David Brierley**

Safe House Books, 274 p

TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE



DEAD MAN TELLING TALES

by **David Brierley**

Safe House Books, 328 p

TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE

"Has the rancid strength of a distillation of the best of Le Carré and Deighton: an authentic winner." Sunday Times

Eve was dead. This much journalist Basil Potter distinctly understood. Until the evening when he sees her on the TV news, in a clip filmed in Budapest, the city where she died. A clip all recordings of which are swiftly destroyed on the orders of government, the government Eve worked for. He may have no proof, but Basil knows what he saw and he knows it was Eve.

Because no man forgets his wife.

So begins Basil's journey of discovery. A journey that takes him back to Budapest, a city still tormented by memories of Soviet oppression, a city where shady diplomats and ruthless gangsters lie at the heart of a story Basil knows he will never be allowed to tell, the city where his parents were born and where he buried his wife. Or at least what was found of her in the Danube.

A single, severed hand.

David Brierley was born in Durban. He moved to Canada, then England and back to South Africa all by the age of thirteen. After Oxford University, he taught at a lycée in France followed by work in London advertising agencies.

"Tough...witty... In the best tradition of suspense fiction." New Yorker

"Super skilled graft of fiction onto history...an authentic winner." Sunday Times

The master of cold war espionage fiction returns with a tale of intrigue and suspense set in post-Soviet Latvia. When wine-merchant Matt Clough learns that the father he never knew has died, he sets out to discover the truth of his father's past. What he finds is a secret that will mean great riches, or sudden death.

England, 2001. Matt Clough is an ordinary English wine-merchant, approaching middle age with no family and no great ambition. An orphan. An ex-spy.

Latvia, 2001. Krisjanis Kulbergs is far from ordinary. Ex-spy. Double agent. Master of the triple-cross. Guilty of just about every crime or sin the twentieth century had to offer. He is the unknown father of English wine-merchant Matt Clough. He is also dead. When Clough learns of the death of a father he never knew, he travels to Latvia to uncover the secrets of his father's life and his own inheritance. The Cold War has been over for a decade, but some men still keep secrets so great that old spies from both sides of the divide will go to any lengths to get hold of them. Including murder.



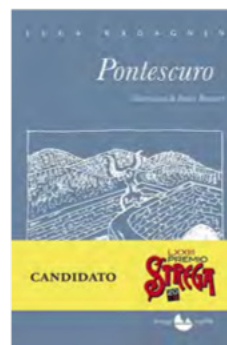
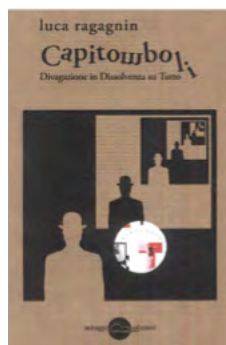
Luca posing next to his portrait as seen by photographer Guglielmina Otter

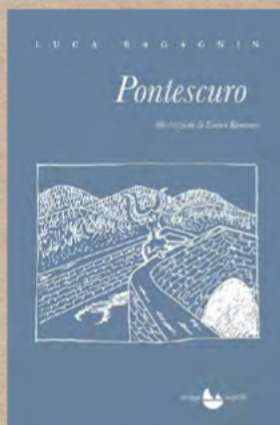
LUCA RAGAGNIN

Luca Ragagnin was born in Turin in 1965. He is an Italian novelist, poet and lyricist. His collections of short stories have been published in literary magazines since the early '80s. In 1995, a collection of his poems won the Montale Prize and was read by Vittorio Gassman in the television series "Cammin leggendo" after being published by Scheiwiller. He is the author of many successful plays, written on his own or in collaboration with famous playwrights of the likes of Enrico Remmert, Emanuele Conte, Andrea Liberovici, Michele Di Mauro, Murcof and Lella Costa.

His novel *Gloombridge* (*Pontescuro* in its original Miraggi Edizioni edition, 2019), was shortlisted for the most important Italian literary prize, the Premio Strega and is about to be published in the U.S.

Among his other novels: *Marmo Rosso* (Baldini & Castoldi, 2014), *Arcano 21* (Del Vecchio Editore, 2014), *Agenzia Pertica* (2017), and *Winking Child*, published in 2022, both by Miraggi Edizioni.





GLOOMBRIDGE

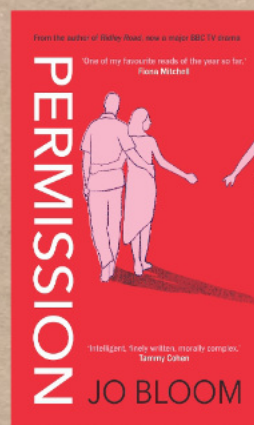
by **Luca Ragagnin**

Miraggi Edizioni, 160 p

**PREMIO
STREGA**

Shortlisted Premio Strega

**ENGLISH RIGHTS SOLD.
OTHER TRANSLATION RIGHTS
AVAILABLE**



PERMISSION

by **Jo Bloom**

Legend Press, 260 p

**GERMAN AND ITALIAN
TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE**

Shortlisted for Premio Strega 2019, and winner of the International Egi Volterrani Prize.

In this novel both victims and witnesses – be they humans, animals or things – are given the chance to speak in a catching dialogue delving into the depths of human nature. The setting is Pontescuro, along the river Po, in the lower flatlands where the fog always lingers, in the north of Italy. The year is 1922, and Daphne, the beautiful and scandalous daughter of the local landlord, is found dead, with a red ribbon tied around her neck. This event unleashes envies and nastiness among the poor village dwellers, as the girl was desired by the same men who despise and deplore her and had gathered the hatred of their women. The landlord makes every effort to punish the culprit... well, a scapegoat more likely. Daphne had known power of seduction and had used it to take revenge against her father and those people who hated and desired her at the same time. Embarrassingly enough the one who won her heart was the village idiot, a countryside wanderer who would talk to birds, trees and rivers. An unacceptable bond, one that had to be broken by whichever means...

Through the short tales whispered by the wind, the priest, the bird, the village idiot, the jealous priest's housekeeper, the fog and the police detective, the story unfolds and truth comes to the surface, revealing the little horrors hidden in the depths of human hearts and their misery.

From the author of *Ridley Road*, now a major BBC TV drama.

Can your marriage survive if you're both sleeping with other people?

Fay and Steve are very happily married. They have two children, grown-up Billy and six year old Rose, a much-longed for second baby. Their life is good but Fay brings up the question of an open marriage and Steve reluctantly agrees to give it a go. She sells it as something that might give their marriage a bit of a kick. A kick Steve didn't know their marriage even needed. But can sex ever just be sex? And even when having permission, are you sure you have taken all the consequences in the picture? An honest and sensitive portrayal of a modern marriage with scenarios to make you ponder.

Jo Bloom has worked as a freelancer in the communications field for over twenty years, with a focus on arts publicity and e-learning. She also contributed to the book review section of Time Out, London for several years.



GOOD - BYE, SON

And Other Stories

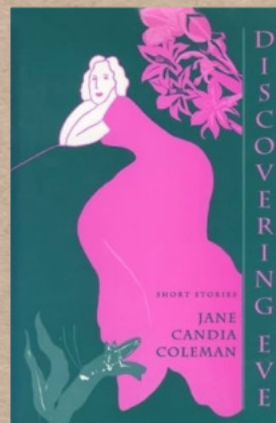
by Janet Lewis

Ohio Swallow, 224 p

FRENCH, ITALIAN, BULGARIAN,
DUTCH, FINNISH, NORWEGIAN,
ROMANIAN AND SWEDISH
RIGHTS AVAILABLE

Good-bye, Son and Other Stories, Janet Lewis's only collection of short fiction, was first published in 1946, but remains as quietly haunting today as it was then. Set in small communities of the upper Midwest and northern California in the '30s and '40s, these midcentury gems focus on the quiet cycles connecting youth and age, despair and hope, life and death. A mother's encounters with her deceased son, an aging woman sitting with the new knowledge of her troubled older sister's death, and a teenager disillusioned by her own mortality are among the characters, mostly women and girls, whom Lewis delivers. Her understated style and knack for unadorned observation embed us with them as they reckon with the disquieting forces - incomprehensible and destructive to some, enlightening to others—that move us from birth, through life, to death. In the process, Lewis has crafted a paean to the living.

Janet Lewis was a novelist, poet, and short-story writer whose literary career spanned almost the entire twentieth century. The New York Times has praised her novels as "some of the 20th century's most vividly imagined and finely wrought literature." Born and educated in Chicago, she lived in California for most of her adult life and taught at both Stanford University and the University of California at Berkeley. Her works include *The Wife of Martin Guerre* (1941), *The Trial of Sören Qvist* (1947), *The Ghost of Monsieur Scarron* (1959), *Good-Bye, Son and Other Stories* (1946), and *Poems Old and New* (1982).



DISCOVERING EVE

Short Stories

by Jane Candia Coleman

Ohio Swallow, 125 p

FRENCH, ITALIAN, BULGARIAN,
DUTCH, FINNISH, NORWEGIAN,
ROMANIAN AND SWEDISH
RIGHTS AVAILABLE

This collection of stories by award-winning writer Jane Candia Coleman is about women coming of age. In each one, the protagonist discovers facets, truths about herself and the world that she has not known—finds places in herself where she has never been.

"It's long past time for women to explain themselves in fiction," Coleman writes, "particularly literary fiction, to write about the world and their own emotions with that sensuality that characterizes women writers—to write from the inside out, and not vice versa.

"Living is a voyage of discovery, and I hope that the readers of these stories will identify with them and, perhaps, take courage from the actions of the characters I have had the pleasure of bringing to life.

"In no way did I mean to slight men in this collection. Rather, I hoped to elucidate the relationships between men and women (good and bad relationships) and the possible ways of continuing or ending such relationships.

"I have long admired D. H. Lawrence for the fact that he brought literature out of the Victorian Age, but I have also been frustrated by his inability to understand women. Several of these stories, particularly 'Wives and Lovers' and 'La Signora Julia,' were written as rebuttals to what I perceived as Lawrence's innocence.

Jane Candia Coleman was the co-founder and Director of the Women's Creative Writing Center at Carlow College in Pittsburgh. Her *No Roof But Sky* won the Western Heritage Award for poetry in 1991, and *Stories from Mesa Country* won the Western Heritage Award for short stories in 1992.



STEFAN ZWEIG

The Year Everything Changed

by **Raoul Precht**

Bottega Errante, 224 p

TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE EXCEPT POLISH

Shortlisted for the Premio Comisso 2022

1935 was the year when everything changed: for Stefan Zweig, who had to deal with a marital crisis and increasing publication difficulties; and for all of humanity, as the Nuremberg Laws made Jews second-class citizens.

In his novel, Precht analyzes the climate of that decisive year with intimate involvement, almost identifying himself with Zweig as he reflects on himself and his work, unable to oppose the spread of Hitler's ideology, for Jewish intellectuals and for she prophesied that the whole world of culture would fall into an abyss whose contours could only be guessed at the time. 1935 was the year when his wife Friderike became aware of his relationship with his secretary Lotte Altmann. In fact, the novel opens with the entry of Friderike, who discovers them while kissing. From this episode, a series of events related to the gradual distancing of the couple will branch out in the course of the book. In fact, during that long 1935 they will try to maintain a semblance of stability despite Zweig's continuous hindrances and movements.

1935 was, indeed, the year when, following an initial confrontation with the local police, Zweig decided to leave Salzburg and Austria and temporarily settle in Great Britain, while continuing to travel and meet writers and artists with whom he was friendly, from Thomas Mann to Joseph Roth, from Sigmund Freud to Arturo Toscanini. The many different places where he came to be, on both sides of the ocean and around Europe give name to the chapters of the book.

In these journeys the reader witnesses minor issues in Zweig's life, when compared with the major events he describes in his writings.

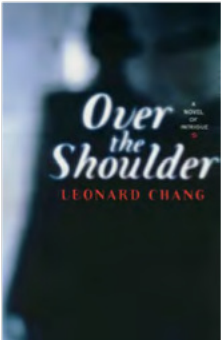
This book is in fact a quite different narrative from those to which we are accustomed with Stefan Zweig: Precht's narrative is turned inwards, in an aim to show that hidden part of Zweig that in his texts and epistolary exchanges does not show: rather than showing Zweig's gaze on the world, Precht shows the world's gaze on Zweig, from the very first lines, starting from his wife Friderike. In the twelve months of 1935 Zweig conceived the book on Castellio and Calvino, his most eloquent work from a political point of view and his personal manifesto against Nazism. Also, in 1935 the first signs show of that meandering weariness that will bring him -seven years later- to decide to end it, in a sort of homage to another famous "double suicide", the one of Heinrich von Kleist.

In an impassive and moving style Precht sheds light on Zweig's familiar and psychological aspects, the ones that drove him to suicide and are usually got rid of with the Pilate formula "he suffered from depressive crises". It is a fictional new perspective on the writer's life, a point of view that could turn up one's nose at first glance, but soon shows to be an increasingly valid and intriguing chance to appreciate and understand the inmost details of Zweig's world.

Born in Rome in December 1960, **Raoul Precht** lives in Luxembourg. He is the author of four novels and three volumes of poetry, one of which was reworked for the stage.

LEONARD CHANG

Leonard Chang is a Korean American writer of short stories and novels, as well as a screenwriter and television writer who is currently a writer/producer for FX's *Snowfall*. His novel *Dispatches from the Cold* won a San Francisco Bay Guardian Goldie Award for Literature.



OVER THE SHOULDERS

1st book of the trilogy
Ecco, Harper Collins
388 p.

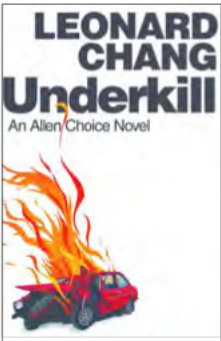
ALL TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE

A USA Today Summer Reading Pick and a finalist for the Shamus Award, *Over The Shoulder* offers a unique view of the American protagonist and reluctant investigator, shaken from the doldrums of his insulated life. Choice and his partner, Paul Baumgartner, are security specialists for Silicon Valley executives. When Paul gets killed on the job, Choice and an inexperienced reporter, Linda Maldonado, begin looking into the puzzling circumstances of the murder. As they work together to unravel the intricate threads of lies and half-truths, they discover that his death might be linked to the mysterious death of Allen's father some twenty years earlier.

With his self-described "philosophy of removal" as his frame of reference, Choice searches for the hidden, long-buried answers, only to be outmaneuvered at every juncture. Against this backdrop of violence and deception, Choice soon discovers secrets that alter his understanding of his family.

"That I am a nobody doesn't bother me as it might some people. I prefer anonymity, unobstructed movement through a crowd with neither a first nor a second glance in my direction." Anonymity is both existential goal and survival skill for Allen Choice, who may call himself a Korean-American but who isn't particularly comfortable with the label. A Silicon Valley security specialist, Choice drifts through life the way he drifts through crowds: detached, isolated, neither particularly fulfilled nor particularly unhappy. He notes wryly, "I used to think I was in inertial rest, a body at rest remaining so. Once an outside force applied itself to me, I would be in motion. I liked this idea. It freed me, relieving me of the responsibility. I just had to wait for an outside force. But I soon realized this was an illusion... I decided to call it the inertial deception. I can't succumb to it."

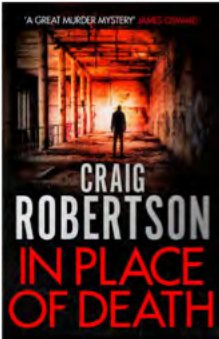
The other two titles of the series:



Leonard Chang's first novel, entitled *The Fruit 'N Food*, was published in 1996 and won the Black Heron Press Award for Social Fiction that year, and is now taught at universities around the world. His second novel, *Dispatches from the Cold*, won a San Francisco Bay Guardian Goldie Award for Literature. *Crossings*, his sixth, was published in 2009, and *Triplines*, was released in 2014. His latest novel, *The Lockpicker* was released in 2017. All these titles are available for translation.

THE TONY WINTER MYSTERIES SERIES

A BESTSELLING SERIES BY CRAIG ROBERTSON, NOW IN IT'S SIXTH EPISODE. A BRILLIANT, BREATH TAKING CRIME FICTION SERIES GAINING MORE AND MORE FAME AMONG MYSTERY FANS.



IN PLACE OF DEATH

6th Book of the series

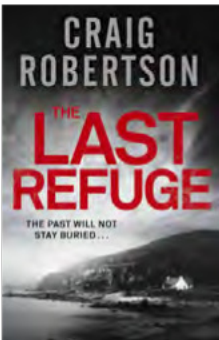
Simon & Schuster

448p.

FRENCH, ITALIAN,
BULGARIAN, DUTCH,
FINNISH, NORWEGIAN,
ROMANIAN AND
SWEDISH RIGHTS
AVAILABLE

A young man enters the culverted remains of an ancient Glasgow stream, looking for thrills. Deep below the city, it is decaying and claustrophobic and gets more so with every step. As the ceiling lowers to no more than a couple of feet above the ground, the man finds his path blocked by another person. Someone with his throat cut.

As DS Rachel Narey leads the official investigation, photographer Tony Winter follows a lead of his own, through the shadowy world of urbexers, people who pursue a dangerous and illegal hobby, a world that Winter knows more about than he lets on. And it soon becomes clear that the murderer has killed before, and has no qualms about doing so again.



LAST REFUGE

5th Book of the series

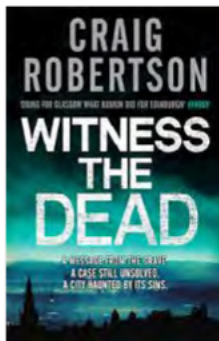
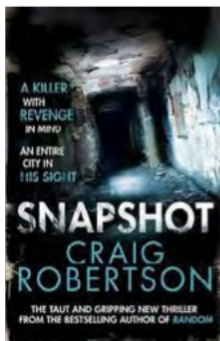
Simon & Schuster

388 p.

FRENCH, ITALIAN,
BULGARIAN, DUTCH,
FINNISH, NORWEGIAN,
ROMANIAN AND
SWEDISH RIGHTS
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You can run from your past but you can never hide from yourself.. When John Callum arrives on the wild and desolate Faroe Islands, he vows to sever all ties with his previous life. He desperately wants to make a new start, and is surprised by how quickly he is welcomed into the close-knit community. But still, the terrifying, debilitating nightmares just won't stop. Then the solitude is shattered by an almost unheard of crime on the islands: murder. A specialist team of detectives arrives from Denmark to help the local police. But as tensions rise, and the community closes rank to protect its own, John has to watch his back. But far more disquieting than that, John's nightmares have taken an even more disturbing turn, and he can't be certain about the one thing he needs to know above all else. Whether he is the killer.

Also, in the same series:



During his 20-year career with a Scottish Sunday newspaper, **Craig Robertson** interviewed three recent Prime Ministers, attended major stories including 9/11, Dunblane, the Omagh bombing and the disappearance of Madeleine McCann. His debut novel, *Random*, was shortlisted for the CWA New Blood Dagger and was a Sunday Times bestseller.



WASTE OF TIMELESSNESS AND OTHER EARLY STORIES

by **Anaïs Nin**

Ohio Swallow, 376-400 p

**BULGARIAN, DUTCH, FINNISH,
NORWEGIAN, ROMANIAN AND
SWEDISH TRANSLATION RIGHTS
AVAILABLE**



COLLAGES

by **Anaïs Nin**
with an Introduction by
Anita Jarczok

Ohio U.P., 170 p

**BULGARIAN, DUTCH, FINNISH,
FRENCH, ITALIAN, NORWEGIAN,
ROMANIAN AND SWEDISH
TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE**

FRENCH, GERMAN, ITALIAN AND SPANISH RIGHTS SOLD.

Written when Anaïs Nin was in her twenties and living in France, the stories collected in *Waste of Timelessness* contain many elements familiar to those who know her later work as well as revelatory, early clues to themes developed in those more mature stories and novels. Seeded with details remembered from childhood and from life in Paris, the wistful tales portray artists, writers, strangers who meet in the night, and above all, women and their desires.

These experimental and deeply introspective missives lay out a central theme of Nin's writing: the contrast between the public and private self. The stories are taut with unrealized sexual tension and articulate the ways that language and art can shape reality. Nin's deft humor, ironic wit, and ecstatic prose display not only superb craftsmanship but also the author's own constant balancing act between feeling and rationality, vulnerability and strength. Perhaps more than any other writer of the twentieth century, she mastered that act and wrote about it on her own terms, defying the literary and social norms of the time.

Anaïs Nin (1903–1977) is an iconic literary figure and one of the most notable experimental writers of the twentieth century. As one of the first women to explore female erotica, Nin revealed the inner desires of her characters in a way that made her works a touchstone for later feminist writers. Swallow Press is the premier US publisher of books by and about Nin.

A transplant from Vienna to Malibu who is driven by her urge to observe and depict those around her, Renate is "the freest woman I know." Working at the Paradise Inn restaurant, she encounters a series of people whose stories make up a larger collage: Henri the chef; Count Laundromat; Varda the artist and his teenage daughter, Nobuko the actress; the French Consul in the Hollywood Hills; an aged lifeguard with a spiritual longing for the sea; and Bruce, the intimate friend with an unnerving secret. First published in 1964 and now reissued with a new introduction by Anita Jarczok, *Collages* showcases Anaïs Nin's dreamlike and introspective style and psychological acuity. Seen by some as linked vignettes and by others as a novel, the book is a mood piece that resists categorization. Based on a close friend of Nin's, Renate is the glue that holds the pieces, by turn fragmentary and full, together. One character absorbs a lesson from the Koran: "Nothing is ever finished." With each of Renate's successive encounters, we take that message to be true.

And, of course, the diaries:





WINTER OF ARTIFICE

Three Novelettes

by **Anaïs Nin**

Ohio Swallow, 148 p

BULGARIAN, FINNISH, NORWEGIAN, ROMANIAN AND SWEDISH TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE

Winter of Artifice was first published in 1945. The book opens with a film star, Stella, studying her own, but alien, image on the screen. It ends in the Manhattan office of a psychoanalyst - the Voice who, as he counsels patients suffering from the maladies of modern life, reveals himself as equally susceptible to them. The middle, title story explores one of Nin's most controversial themes, that of a woman's sexual relationship with her father. *Elliptical*, fragmented prose, unconventional structure, surrealistic psychic landscapes, presents an important opportunity to consider anew the work of an author who laid the groundwork for later writers.

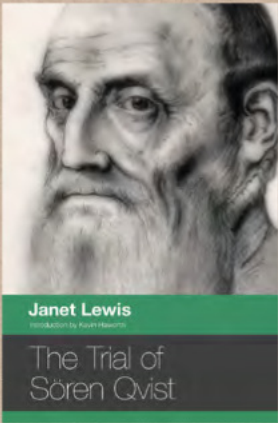
Winter of Artifice represents a literary artist coming into her own, with the formal experimentation, thematic daring, and psychological intrigue that became her hallmarks.

"The lead female characters begin small and damaged and eventually emerge at the other side more complete people at the expense of the men in their paths. But Nin accomplishes this with such delicacy and style that one would swear there was no other way." - Bookslut

Anaïs Nin (1903–1977) is an iconic literary figure and one of the most notable experimental writers of the twentieth century. As one of the first women to explore female erotica, Nin revealed the inner desires of her characters in a way that made her works a touchstone for later feminist writers. Swallow Press is the premier US publisher of books by and about Nin.

Also available, by Anaïs Nin:





THE TRIAL OF SÖREN QVIST

by **Janet Lewis**

Ohio U.P., 112 p

BESTSELLING AUTHOR

FRENCH EDITION OF ALL THE TITLES OF THE SERIES BY LAFFONT.

THE SECOND BOOK "THE TRIAL OF SOREN QVIST" AND THE THIRD BOOK "THE GHOST OF MONSIEUR SCARRON" ARE AVAILABLE FOR:

GERMAN, SPANISH, ITALIAN, BULGARIAN, DUTCH, FINNISH, NORWEGIAN, ROMANIAN AND SWEDISH. EACH TITLE IS AN INDEPENDENT STORY.

"Probably (The Trial of Sören Qvist) is the most perfect of Janet Lewis' novels, and among the most perfect of any novels." Fred Inglis, *Critique: Studies in Modern Fiction*

"The perfect novel of its genre."
New York Times

"You know from the beginning what has happened—that a man has been executed for a murder no one in the small Danish community believes he committed. Yet circumstantial evidence points to him. By the end, he has convinced himself he is indeed guilty, and would rather die with a good conscience, forgiven by God, than struggle to live." Meredith Sue Willis's Books for Readers

Based on a notorious seventeenth century trial is one of three novels making up **Lewis's Cases of Circumstantial Evidence**

Also, by the same author:

Janet Lewis was a novelist, poet, and short-story writer whose literary career spanned almost the entire twentieth century. The New York Times has praised her novels as "some of the 20th century's most vividly imagined and finely wrought literature." She taught at both Stanford University and the University of California at Berkeley. Her works include *The Wife of Martin Guerre*, *The Trial of Sören Qvist*, *The Ghost of Monsieur Scarron*, *Good-Bye, Son* and *Other Stories*.

THE FIRST TITLE OF THE SERIES "THE WIFE OF MARTIN GUERRE": GERMAN EDITION BY DTV, SPANISH EDITION BY PENGUIN, ITALIAN EDITION BY RACCONTI EDIZIONI. BULGARIAN, DUTCH, FINNISH, NORWEGIAN, ROMANIAN AND SWEDISH TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE.

EACH TITLE IS AN INDEPENDENT STORY.





ALEK POPOV

Alek Popov was born in Sofia, Bulgaria, in 1966. He studied in the elite classical gymnasium in Sofia, graduated from St. Constantine Cyril the Philosopher College for Ancient Languages and Cultures in Sofia and later received his master's degree in Bulgarian language and literature from the Sofia University. In 1997, he attended the English Language Institute at Wayne State University.

His first novel, *Mission London*, was published in 2001. It has been widely acclaimed as "the funniest contemporary Bulgarian book" for its sarcastic projection of the diplomatic elite. So far, it has been translated and published into 12 languages. A film based on the novel was released in 2010.

Popov's second novel, *The Black Box*, was published in 2007. It came out in German under the title *Die Hunde fliegen tief* (*Dogs Are Flying Low*) and in English. In January 2014, *The Black Box* won the 2013 U.K. contemporary Bulgarian novel contest of the Elizabeth Kostova Foundation, organized in cooperation with Peter Owen Publishers. The book has also been translated in Serbian, Turkish, Polish and Italian.

Popov's third novel, *Sister to the way of the new world* (2013), headed the Top 10 list of best-selling titles in Bulgaria, and won the 2013 Helicon Prize for new Bulgarian literary prose.

Over the years, Alek Popov has published 6 collections of short stories. These collections were published by the German publisher Deutsche Taschenbuch Verlag under the title *For Advanced*. They have been translated into German, Hungarian, Polish, Serbian, Czech, French, Danish, English and Turkish.

Alek Popov has won several literary awards including:

- the National Radio's Pavel Veshinov Award for the best criminal short story;
- the Graviton Award for best science fiction;
- the Raško Sugarev Award for best short story;
- the prize Helicon for best prose book of the year, 2002 and 2013;
- the annual prize of Clouds magazine for the English translation of *Mission London*, 2004;
- the National Prize for Drama Ivan Radoev;
- Elias Canetti Prize for his novel *The Black Box*, 2007;
- The Flower of Helicon Award;
- the United Bulgarian Banks Award for book of the year 2007.

In October 2012, Alek Popov was elected a corresponding member of the Bulgarian Academy of Science in the field of Arts. He serves in the board of the Bulgarian PEN Center and is part of the editorial body of the prestigious literary magazine *Granta Bulgaria*.



MISSION: TOURAN

by **Alek Popov**

Ciela, 412 p

**TRANSLATION RIGHTS
AVAILABLE**



THE BLACK BOX

by **Alek Popov**

English edition:

Peter Owen, 416 p

**DANISH, GERMAN, ENGLISH,
ITALIAN, SERBIAN, SPANISH,
TURKISH AND POLISH RIGHTS
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The new satirical novel by Alek Popov: a modern story that explores society by means of irony, in which everyone gets what they deserve.

An elderly man dies in a remote Bulgarian village. He is 92 years old, he is the last person living in the village and no one would have noticed his death, were it not that, due to it, the country's population fatally falls below 7 million people, leading the demographic decline in the EU and triggering waves of panic in national politics. People are starting to wonder: are we going to disappear? Will there still be any Bulgarians in the next hundred years? Is it the fault of democracy or the EU?

The country's president - a staunch nationalist facing re-election - is determined to do something. Of course he could open the doors of the country to thousands of migrants, but he cannot do it, because he was elected promising that Bulgaria would be open to Bulgarians only. But where to find them, when those who have emigrated do not want to return? So the president sends an anthropological expedition to find Bulgarians around the world for him to take home. After a short time, anthropologists proudly report that in a remote region of Central Asia they have found a population resembling the Proto-Bulgarians who left some 70 generations ago. The president is thrilled. Firstly, if these people get Bulgarian passports, it means that the country will have 7.5 million people again; and secondly, he could make a deal for them to vote for him in the next presidential election...

Original Language: Bulgarian

From dog walker to millionaire, from millionaire to dropout: two brothers from Bulgaria seek their fortune in America and, in the end, find their father's ashes.

A small black box full of ashes is all that Ned and Ango, two very different brothers from Bulgaria, have left of their father. It has been 15 years since their father, a mathematician hovering between genius and madness, died under mysterious circumstances in America as a visiting professor. Their father has long been nothing more than a ghost to them until the paths of the two brothers cross again, far from their homeland, in New York. Ned, the good-for-nothing, has made it to the top on Wall Street while Ango, the smart one, walks dogs for snobs in Central Park. But then the tide turns and the ghost of their father suddenly comes to life again.

Alek Popov does away with old fairytales. His new novel was at number one for weeks in the bestseller lists in Bulgaria. It is a satire of gold diggers in the West and the East, of the yearning for happiness shared by successful people and underdogs, and of the wrong impressions we immediately form of each other when a world divides us. East or West, top or bottom, dead or alive: let us be brothers! Racy, witty and damned bite-eager.

Original Language: Bulgarian



PALAVEEV SISTERS 1&2: IN THE STORM OF HISTORY/ON THE WAY TO THE NEW WORLD

by Alek Popov

German Edition: Residenz Verlag, 328 p

HELIKON AWARD for best fiction of 2013. THE FLOWER OF HELIKON Prize for best selling book of 2013. SHORTLISTED FOR Elias Canetti Prize 2014. SHORTLISTED FOR THE ROYAL UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE DUKE OF WESTMINSTER MEDAL

GERMAN RIGHTS SOLD FOR THE FIRST VOLUME. SPANISH RIGHTS SOLD ON BOTH VOLUMES. ALL OTHER TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE.

A two episodes story.

Although the second novel can be read on its own as a separate piece, **the two parts together form a kind of a saga** encompassing the period between 1943 and 1953 and an ironic gaze on one of the most dramatic episodes in European history: Partisan movement and the communist propaganda.

In *Palaveev sisters: In the storm of history*, the eponymous twin teenage sisters from middle class backgrounds, Kara and Ira, are on the run from the authorities. They have joined a Partisan group based in the Balkan mountains. The Partisans are a mixed bunch of young and old communists and Peasant party members, all dedicated fighters against the Bulgarian monarchist regime and their German allies. Many have adopted colourful nicknames and Commander Medvev, who is a former refugee, speaks Bulgarian with a heavy Russian accent.

From the start, the pretty twins seed confusion in the hearts of the fighters. Only a few hours into their adventure, the rebels are attacked by government forces, led by the fearsome captain Night. The few survivors find safety in the Forbidden Wood. Lost in the mountains on the border between Bulgaria and Serbia, the twin sisters Kara and Ira are left to the mercy of the elements and separated.

The Cold War finds the Twins on the opposing sides of the Iron Curtain..

Original language of both novels: Bulgarian

Palaveev Sisters: On The Way To The New World is a new chapter of the story.

The plot unfolds following the audacious lives of both sisters. As their life gets more complicated, the sisters grow and evolve from teenagers into young women. Their characters deepen, as do their sexual experiences. The spell of ideology dwindles to give way to a strife for individual freedom – the mark of the imminent 1960's. Kara returns to Sofia hoping to reconcile with her parents and just to witness a bomb hitting the house before her eyes and killing her parents. During a raid, Kara is turned in to the police but with the help of a senior party activist she manages to escape. "Uncle" Angel will however prove himself unworthy of trust. Ira has lost her memory and the partisans give her the nickname Snejana (Snow). After a passionate but brief love affair with a Yugoslav partisan commander, Ira is rescued by a downed British airman, Ralph, who leads her to London with him and where they get married. Kara's fate, too, is linked to London, where she joins a KGB officer to his new assignment.

The year is 1953, only a few weeks after Stalin's death. During mass at the Brompton Oratory, a mysterious young lady (Ira) approaches the altar of St. Valfre and takes out a small container from under the statue. It contains an encrypted message. A few hours later, she enters the "King's Coffin," a bar in Soho, where her sister is waiting... the most unexpected of double agents. Overcoming old grievances, Popov writes with a healthy sense of humor (pitch-black at times!) and profound irony, going way beyond the picking of sides in an effort to grasp the internal paradox of human nature.

Eulama's Staff is looking forward to hearing from you!
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