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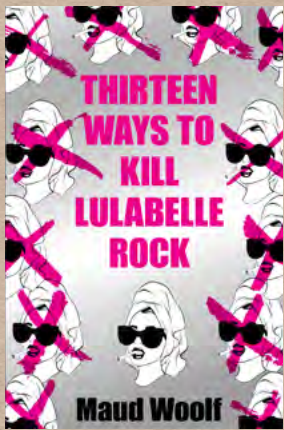
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FICTION CATALOGUE



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13 WAYS TO KILL LULABELLE ROCK

by **Maud Woolf**

Angry Robots, 245 p

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DEAD MAN TELLING TALES

by **David Brierley**

Safe House Books, 328 p

**TRANSLATION RIGHTS
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German rights sold to Fischer Tor in preempt!

A creepy, psychological exploration of the boundaries between awareness and conscience. A wonderful adventure and a metaphor of the social identities crisis.'

In a world of glitzy glamour and burgeoning technology, washed up star Lulabelle Rock employs a clone of herself to kill the other twelve versions of herself. Set in a world of the near future, the celebrity elite have access to a technology that allows them to make perfect copies of themselves, known as Portraits. These Portraits exist to fulfil all the various duties that come as the price of fame. Our protagonist is the thirteenth copy made of the actress known as Lulabelle Rock. Her purpose is very simple: to track down and eliminate her predecessors.

While initially easy, her task is made difficult by the labyrinthine confusion of Bubble City and the unfortunate stirrings of a developing conscience. When she makes the mistake of falling in love with one of her targets, the would-be assassin faces the ultimate question; when you don't want to kill yourself, what's the alternative?

Maud Woolf is a Scottish speculative writer with a particular focus on horror and science fiction. Her work has appeared in a variety of online magazines, including Metaphorosis Magazine where her short story 'The Stranding' was selected to appear in the Best of Metaphorosis 2020.

"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.

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.

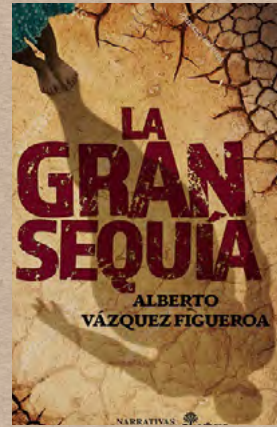


THE FLORENTIN

by **Lorenzo de' Medici**

La Esfera de los libros, 392 p

**GERMAN, ITALIAN, POLISH,
ROMENIAN AND TURKISH
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THE GRAT DROUGHT

by **A. Vázquez-Figueroa**

Edhasa, 200 p

**GERMAN, ITALIAN, POLISH,
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Florence, year 1743, Princess Anna Maria Luisa, last ruler of the Medici family in Tuscany, has only a few months left to live. Enemies lie in wait and she, with her last strength, struggles to prevent the enormous patrimony of her dynasty from being plundered by the supposed allies of the Austrian empire.

In the present day, Ann Carrington, an American professor, is commissioned to travel to Lisbon and bid at an auction for a book of the eighteenth century dedicated to the famous Fiorentino, the diamond of the Medici. By chance, among its pages, she discovers some strange numbers that clearly hide an encrypted message: are they the coordinates that lead to the lost treasures of the ducal family?

Thus begins a fast-paced historical thriller, which drags its protagonists through half of Europe, in a race in which not everyone is who they say they are.

Lorenzo de' Medici is a direct descendant of the Medici family, one of the most important in history, whose patronage fostered the creation of the greatest works of the Renaissance. He is the author of several historical works, among which: *The Medici, our history*. Lorenzo has also written guidebooks: Florence and Tuscany and Golf Courses. As a novelist, has cultivated the historical novel. He has published: The plot of the Queen, The secret of Sofonisba, The Spanish Lover, The cards stolen and Lost Word. Currently, he hosts a series of television documentaries about historical subjects in Germany. He also collaborates in press and radio.

“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*.



THE GOOD VASSAL

by **Francisco Narla**

Penguin Random House, 720 p

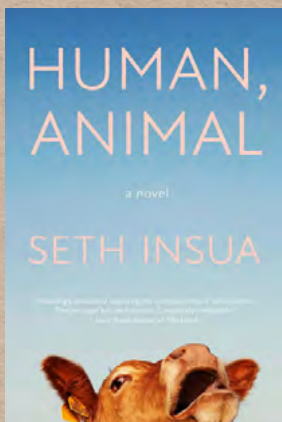
GERMAN, ITALIAN, POLISH, ROMENIAN AND TURKISH TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE

An historical novel based on real historical events. Narla recovers those characters, those facts, those secrets that are more than mere scenery, and discovers the stories hidden behind History, the real story of El Cid. But what is there really to know about Rodrigo Diaz de Vivar? "He was not condemned to one banishment, but to two, and he had a son, a son he sent to die... El Cid is one of those dusty corners of history, full of surprises. And The Good Vassal dusts off that nook. It uncovers the cannibalism during the siege of Valencia, the role of a Jimena who does not deserve to be forgotten, the fall of a man condemned by his ambition. We know his legend, but not his truth. His shadow has swallowed his biography. El Cid won in Almenar, in Tevar, in Almusafes... Bairén, Cuarte. He was never defeated. The Good Vassal tells us how war destroys men, a father's rejection of his son, the loss of a mother, how revenge corrupts friendship and how love can condemn the soul in a time when bread was won with the sword and honor was worth more than gold.

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. *Lain* was a bestseller with more than 25.000 copies sold and won the Edhasa Narrativas Stóricas award.

Also available, by the same author:





HUMAN, ANIMAL

by **Seth Insua**

Verve Books

**GERMAN, FRENCH, SPANISH,
ESTONIAN, LATVIAN AND
LITHUANIAN TRANSLATION
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THE POLAR BEAR AND THE HOPE FOR TOMORROW

by **John Ironmonger**

Fischer Verlag, 331 p

**GERMAN AND ITALIAN RIGHTS
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In this impressive debut, intergenerational tensions are laid bare when a family dairy farm is targeted by activists.

Literary fiction at its best, beautifully written and with a gripping storyline that speaks to younger generations connecting family bonds with social media image issues and on line shaming.

Since the death of his brother, dairy farmer George Calvert has fought to keep the family business afloat. Worried about the future but resistant to change, George refuses to face the truth of his failing farm, his elderly mother's declining health and his troubled relationship with his youngest son, Tom.

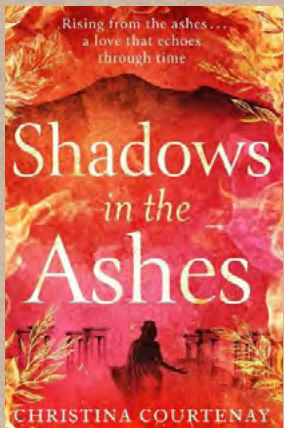
Returning from university, Tom guards the truth of his burgeoning identity. Unable to confide in his family, he isolates himself from those around him. When animal rights activists break into the cowshed, the fallout is unprecedented – especially as Tom appears to side with the protestors. As the Calverts navigate the real-world consequences of going viral alongside seemingly irreconcilable personal differences, a decades-old secret surfaces – one that might rip them apart completely, or finally bring them together.

Seth Insua is an Anglo-Spanish writer and artist. He was born in Kent in 1989. He graduated from the University of Oxford with a First in English Language and Literature. He has been shortlisted for the Bridport Prize and The London Magazine's Short Story Competition and was a semi-finalist in the BlueCat Screenplay Competition.

The village of St Piran, on the very toe of Cornwall, is a sleepy little place. Not much happens there. Until one evening, an angry young man and an arrogant politician have a very public disagreement in a harbourside inn. The consequences of their argument, and the deadly wager they strike, will cascade down the decades.

Tom Horsmith is an idealist. Young, driven, and smart, his bar-room humiliation of Monty Causley could have destroyed the career of a lesser politician. But every effort either man makes to put the past behind them draws them deeper into a web of circumstances neither can escape, leading them both a long way from St Piran, onto a colossal iceberg drifting south away from Greenland, where their only companion is a very hungry bear. A heart-stopping tale of ambition, friendship, love, and disaster. And a bear.

Previous titles by **John Ironmonger** have been published in Italy (Bollati Boringhieri Editore), the Netherlands (Uitgeverij Signatuur), Poland (Jagiellonian University Press), Portugal (Bertrand), Russia (AST) and Slovakia (Albatros). John's third novel, *The Whale at the End of the World*, was a huge bestseller in Germany, selling over 400,000 copies (and over 40,000 in the UK). John was shortlisted for the Costa First Novel Award and the Not the Booker for his debut *The Notable Brain of Maximilian Ponder*. *The Coincidence Authority*, published in France as *Le Genie des Coïncidences*, won the prestigious Prix de Lecteurs at Littératures Européennes 2015 and the Prix Bouchon de Cultures.



SHADOWS IN THE ASHES

by **Christina Courtenay**

Headline, Hachette, 368 p

GERMAN, FRENCH, SPANISH, ESTONIAN, LATVIAN AND LITHUANIAN TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE

A gripping historical dual time line from bestselling author Christina Courtenay, moving between present day to the fires of ancient Pompeii.

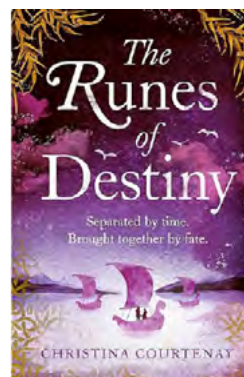
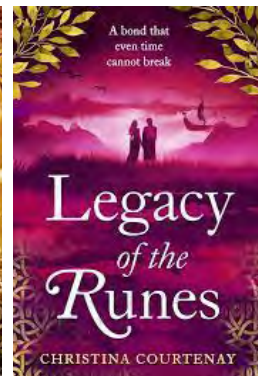
Present Day: Finally escaping an abusive marriage, Caterina Rossi takes her three-year-old daughter and flees to Italy. There she's drawn to research scientist Connor, who needs her translation help for his work on volcanology. Together they visit the ruins of Pompeii and, standing where Mount Vesuvius unleashed its fire on the city centuries before, Cat begins to see startling visions. Visions that appear to come from the antique bracelet handed down through her family's generations...

AD 79: Sold by his half-brother and enslaved as a gladiator in Roman Pompeii, Raedwald dreams only of surviving each fight, making the coin needed to return to his homeland and taking his revenge. That is, until he is hired to guard beautiful Aemilia. As their forbidden love grows, Raedwald's dreams shift like the ever more violent tremors of the earth beneath his feet. The present starts eerily to mirror the past as Cat must fight to protect her safety, and to forge a new path from the ashes of her old life

Christina Courtenay is an award-winning author of historical romance and time-slip stories. She has won the RNA's Romantic Novel of the Year Award for Best Historical Romantic Novel twice. Titles by Christina Courtenay have been published in Czechia (Dobrovsky), Italy (Newton Compton), Russia (Arkadia), Sweden (Lind & Co) and Turkey (Eksik Parca).

An Amazon #1 bestseller from award-winning author Christina Courtenay.

Also, by the same author:





BLOOD ROSES

by **Douglas Jackson**

Canelo, 368 p

**GERMAN, FRENCH, SPANISH,
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DEAD IN VENICE

by **Fiona Leitch**

Harper Collins, 244 p

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A chilling serial killer investigation, perfect for fans of Simon Scarrow's Blackout, Philip Kerr and the TV series Mindhunter is a keen amateur genealogist and loves history and archaeology. The first novel in a planned four-book series.

As the Nazis roll into Warsaw, a serial killer is unleashed... September 1939. A city ruled by fear. A population brutalised by restrictions and reprisals. Amid the devastation, another hunter begins to prowl. What are a few more deaths amid scores of daily executions?

Former chief investigator Jan Kalisz lives a dangerous double life, forced to work with the occupiers as he gathers information for the fledgling Polish resistance. Even his family cannot be told his true allegiance. When the niece of a Wehrmacht general is found terribly mutilated, Jan links the murder to other killings that are of less interest to his new overlords. Soon, he finds himself on the trail of a psychopathic killer known as The Artist. But, shunned as a Nazi collaborator, can he solve the case before another innocent girl is taken?

ELIGIBLE FOR THE PUBLISHING SCOTLAND TRANSLATION FUND.

Douglas Jackson is the author of seventeen historical novels and mystery thrillers, including the critically acclaimed nine-book Hero of Rome series. He was born in Jedburgh in the Scottish Borders and now lives in Stirling. Originally a journalist by profession, he rose to become Assistant Editor of the Scotsman before leaving to be a full-time writer in 2009.

Bella Tyson is a famous forty-something crime writer suffering from writer's block ever since a bitter divorce two years before.

When a fan offers her the use of an apartment in Venice, Bella jumps at it, hoping a change of scene will have her writing again. Once there, she soon meets Will, a charming and mild-mannered Interpol agent working in the city, and is swept away by him. Enchanted by both Will and her new surroundings, Bella decides to write a supernatural murder mystery and begins researching local legends and the city's more sinister side, including an illicit visit to the island of Poveglia, spooky former home of Venice's asylum. Soon Bella uncovers more than she has bargained for and finds herself enmeshed in a series of gruesome real-life murders that uncannily mirror the legends she is researching.

As she and Will join forces to investigate, real life and local lore merge disconcertingly. Bella realises that not everything in Venice is as it seems.

Fiona Leitch writes the bestselling Jodie 'Nosey' Parker cosy crime series for HarperCollins. iTtles by Fiona Leitch have been published in Czechia (Alpress), France (City Editions), Germany (DP), Italy (HarperCollins Italy), Russia (Mann, Ivanov & Ferber), Sweden (HarperCollins Sweden). Her English publisher worldwide is HarperCollins.

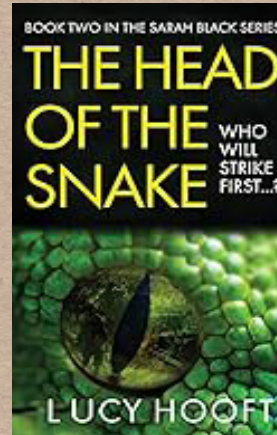


THE KING'S PAWN

by **Lucy Hooft**

Burning Chair, 386 p

TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE



THE CURSE OF THE SACRED SPEAR

by **Lucy Hooft**

Burning Chair, 386 p

TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE

(The Sarah Black Series Book 1)

Sarah Black is young, naïve, inexperienced, and the latest recruit into the world of international espionage. Thrown into a world where nothing is as it seems, and no one can be trusted, Sarah must learn the rules of the game quickly, just to survive.

Drawn to the enigmatic Michael, a suave but elusive MI6 agent, she falls into a world of adventure and intrigue. When MI6 hear rumours of a potential attack on a new oil pipeline across the Caucasus, Sarah finds herself thrust into the middle of a web of deceit and intrigue. Alone and without support in an unstable Eastern Europe, can Sarah foil the plot before it's too late?

Can she draw on all her ingenuity and courage to survive in a world where everyone thinks they are a king but actually all are just pawns?

"If you're looking for the next Le Carré, Ludlum or Silva, then she has arrived and her name is Lucy Hooft, the refreshingly new female spy author. Steel yourself for her spectacular and much anticipated British spy series set in Eastern Europe that catapults you into a world of 21st Century intrigue, deception, and a perilous slalom of twists and turns you - I'll warn you now - might never recover from." - Richard Lyntton, author of North Korea Deception and The Deception Series.

The Head of the Snake is a fast moving, gripping human drama rooted in terrifying real life events. Sarah Black is back and - with or without her MI6 handlers - is hungry for revenge. Scarred from her exploits in Tbilisi, she still has unfinished business in the murky world of global espionage. Namely the mastermind behind the foiled attack and the man who always seems to be one move ahead. Tracking her foe to the civil war in Sierra Leone, where he is financing the ruthless rebel leader, Foday Sankoh, Sarah uncovers an even deadlier masterplan. Cut off from MI6, Sarah decides to take matters into her own hands, but soon finds herself out of her depth, in a lawless land where everyone is either aggressor or victim. But will bringing her foe to justice really be enough to satisfy her need for vengeance, or must she find and cut off the real head of the snake?

The Head of the Snake is the second novel in the Sarah Black series, and the sequel to The King's Pawn.

"It's so exciting to see a powerful female character like Sarah Black emerging. A fast-paced espionage thriller that feels fresh and exciting!"- Holly Watt, journalist

Lucy Hooft is a British writer, currently based in Lüderitz, Namibia. She studied languages and philosophy at Oxford and joined the Foreign Office straight out of university. She quickly moved across to the Department for International Development (DFID), where she spent time in Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, China, Sierra Leone and Jordan, to work for Her Majesty Queen Rania, than Gabon, surrounded by elephants and humpback whales, which is where the Sarah Black books began.



THE SURRENDER

by **Lorenzo Vargas**

Zona 42, 480 p

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COSMOPEDIA

by **Alessandro Vietti**

Zona 42, 528 p

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Through infinite identities and configurations, the Hero and the Necromancer stand as eternal entities engaged in a war that predates History itself.

Even archetypes reach a breaking point, and when they decide to call it quits, they retreat incognito among the oblivious humanity they helped shape.

Yet, no matter how hard they try to keep a low profile, their presence is a gravitational force potent enough to derail the lives of those around them.

Amidst a God who isn't dead but merely disinterested, the earthquake-ridden central Italy of Montebasso, and the socio-economic entropy of New York, Vargas's novel unfolds the tale of how the eternal struggle between Good and Evil might have been just a tragic misunderstanding. The ageless domestic animals, assorted monsters, and indescribable powers provide the backdrop for a story that Neil Gaiman and Terry Pratchett might have penned if they had grown up in Italy, blending their imagination with the profoundly human cynicism of a Garth Ennis.

Author of fiction, role-playing games, and an editor here and there, **Lorenzo Vargas** has published two more novels, along with a series of stories in anthologies and literary magazines such as La Nuova Verde, Retabloid, Micorrize, and Inquieto. He is the co-creator of the UNIT role-playing game and the founder of the Coro Terroristico Maceratese. These, along with a certain skill in preparing falafel, remain his unique sources of pride.

Today: What if science discovered that humanity could achieve anything as long as billions of people focused on the same intention simultaneously? It could heal – or kill – anyone, alter the course of history. And what implications would such a discovery have if artificial intelligences also developed the ability to harness the same power?

Tomorrow: The Fall of the Vault forces three young quyrns to leave the living forest, in search of a place to call home. Guided by the wisdom of Motherwise and protected by the bastet Njm, they will encounter terror and wonder, touch death and the stars, learn what it means to branch out, and they will hear from Earth the fantastic stories that have shaped their roots.

Tackling pressing issues of our present, from climate change to the impact of AI on our lives, 'Cosmopedia' serves as a reminder of the responsibilities we bear today in shaping the future for generations to come.

It guides us on an initiatory journey, both horrifying and hopeful, through a world we ought to learn to desire, for that world is us. 'Cosmopedia' is Alessandro Vietti's most recent and ambitious work to date. As speculative fiction at its finest, it delves into what our future might hold thousands of years from now.

Born just in time to witness the conquest of the Moon, **Alessandro Vietti**, an engineer, lives and works in Genoa in the energy sector, also engaging in scientific outreach and speculative fiction. He made his debut with the novel 'Cyberworld', (Nord, 1996), followed three years later by 'Il codice dell'invasore' (Nord, 1999) Haunted Houses Anatomy.



PLOT TWIST

by **Rachel Burton**
Harper Collins, 416 p

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SHOUT OUT TO MY EX

by **Sandy Barker**
Boldwood, 381 p

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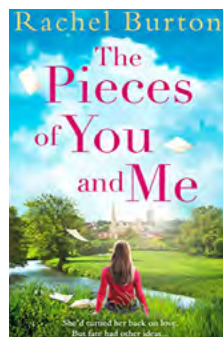
Two aspiring authors meet online and agree to spend the summer together to work on their books and forget their baggage – but as romance unexpectedly blossoms... Becca Taylor is having a bad summer. Her best friend is dead. Her good-for-nothing ex is back in her life. And her career is in freefall. So when fellow writer Riley O'Connell invites Becca to the charming Irish countryside, she can't pack her bags fast enough – even though they have never met.

But happily-ever-after isn't quite so simple. And Riley is not a sensitive female romance novelist like Becca assumed. No, he is definitely a man. A hot, six-foot-tall, Irish man. But with their complicated pasts getting in the way, Becca and Riley just can't get on the same page. So can fate give their love story a rewrite?

ELIGIBLE FOR THE PUBLISHING SCOTLAND TRANSLATION FUND.

Rachel Burton has published three books with HQ (HarperCollins), and is now on a two-book contract

Also, by the same author:



A hilarious enemies-to-lovers romcom set in the fashion world in Paris.

Fashion designer Elle Bliss is unlucky in love. She's still hung up on her first love, Leo, who ended things abruptly, then mysteriously disappeared – and a decade on, no one else can measure up.

But Elle's all-time dream of showing in Paris Fashion Week is about to become a reality, and she has no time to dwell on her dismal love life. That is until Leo – now going by Lorenzo – comes back into her life.

An up-and-coming shoe designer, 'Lorenzo' is nothing like the man she fell in love with. Rude, brash and with an ego the size of Paris, he's too caught up in his own celebrity.

But as they constantly cross paths in the city of love, Elle begins to question how much of 'Lorenzo' is an act – a persona for the cameras. Because deep down, she can see glimpses of the man he was, and feelings from all those years ago become impossible to ignore...

Sandy Barker's first novel, *One Summer in Santorini*, a romantic comedy set in Greece, was published in June 2019 by One More Chapter (HarperCollins). Santorini sparked a 5-book series with *That Night in Paris* and *A Sunset in Sydney* in 2020, and *A Sunrise over Bali* and *A Wedding in Tuscany* in 2022. She is also the author of *The Dating Game* and the Christmas Romance series: *The Christmas Swap* and *The Christmas Trip*.

'The Devil Wears Prada meets Emily in Paris... a fabulously original romcom, full of humour.' Julie Caplin



SEIDMANDUR

The Shaman

by **Maddalena Marcarini**

Alcatraz, 252 p

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TAKEKO

A Samurai's Tale

by **Daniele Cellamare**

Les Flaneurs, 224 p

TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE

Seiðmaður - The Shaman is a paranormal thriller set against the bleak background of Iceland and rooted in the traditions of Nordic mysticism. A dark, haunting picture and a gripping story with a plot as tight as a rope.

Young Erlen is haunted by her past. Every day, she tries to deny it, in vain: her memory has its fangs sunk deep into her heart. As escape is not an option, Erlen instead travels to remote Iceland, the birthplace of the mother she lost long ago. Choosing to let it all go, Erlen lets herself be swallowed by the ice-cold waves. Yet every end is also a new beginning. She is saved by the eccentric sixty-year old Óttar - a true shaman, as Erlen will soon find out - who takes her under his wing. Reluctantly, she heeds his teachings and is set on the path of the traditions of old. As Erlen finds a new sense of belonging, an ancient enemy - another shaman, but one who has chosen a darker path - appears. In order to save a child from her same fate, Erlen and Óttar embark on a hunt that will take them from the quiet streets of austere Reykjavík to the wild landscapes of lava fields and the black beaches, where she will have to confront her past once and for all. Erlen's journey will take her from dark places to discover her roots and what she thought was impossible to find - a sense of belonging.

Maddalena Marcarini works as a translator. After contributing to several collective anthologies, she won the "Ghirlanda's Choice" award in 2020 with her illustrated short story collection Schegge (Felici Editore, 2021).

Daughter of legendary samurai Nakano Heinai, Takeko was destined to follow in her father's footsteps. Raised as a martial artist, she grows up to be a fierce warrior, dead set on defending the honour of shogun Tokugawa. In the late nineteenth century, the Meiji Emperor is trying to transform Japan into a western modeled superpower, generating friction and unrest among the shogun's feudal lords and their traditional values. Determined to uphold her family name, Takeko will not only have to face the Emperor's forces - she needs to carve her way through the male dominated samurai chaste first.

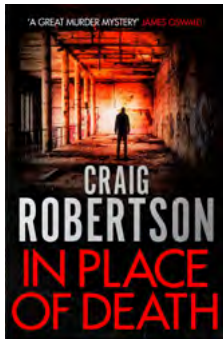
Takeko is a tightly plotted historical novel set against a painstakingly researched historical background. The themes of the female hero and the clash between modernism and traditional values are bound to resonate deeply with contemporary readers - a perfect novel for fans of James Clavell's Shogun.

Also, by the same author:



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

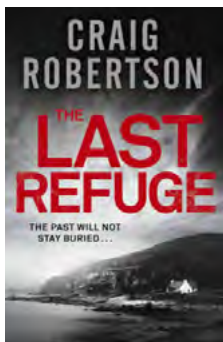
Simon & Schuster

448p.

SPANISH, BULGARIAN AND ROMANIAN TRANSLATION 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

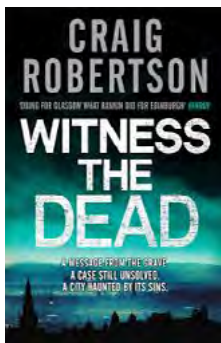
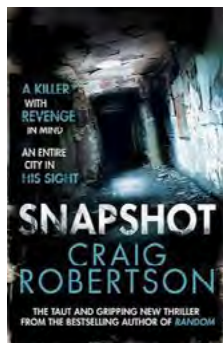
Simon & Schuster

388 p.

SPANISH, BULGARIAN AND ROMANIAN TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE

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.



THE WEIGHT OF ABSENCE

by **Gianluigi Bodi**

Les Flaneurs, 106 p

Longlisted at Premio Comisso 2024

TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE



THE SECRET NAME

by **Olga Gambari**

Miraggi Edizioni, 384 p

Longlisted at Premio Comisso 2024

TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE

A nameless man embarks on a journey driven by nostalgia: he deeply misses Silvia, the woman he loved. The weight of her absence leads him back to his hometown, Venice, where he can rely on the hospitality of his lifelong friend, Edoardo. As he endlessly wanders through the narrow streets, determined to reclaim his roots, he runs time and time again into the same people: his old teacher, a childhood friend, and even his wife. And a mysterious, mischievous clown, who seems to know way too much about him - and Silvia. He soon realizes that the city is no longer the same: certain details reveal discrepancies between the sharp images before his eyes and the faded memories in his mind. From this fracture emerges an unsettling portrait of a cold, magnetic Venice, unraveling a chasm of secrets and ruins from which no one can escape. It is up to the man - and the reader - to piece together the mosaic.

An intimate and melancholic debut novel, which delicately explores the fragile and molten material we call "memory."

Gianluigi Bodi won the CartaCarbone Literary Festival competition with his short story *Perché piango di notte*. He has twice been a finalist in the 8x8 contest. His stories have appeared in numerous magazines, as well as in the anthologies *I giorni alla finestra* (Il Saggiatore, 2020) and *Ti racconto una canzone* (Arcana, 2022). He edited two anthologies of various authors. In 2023, he published his first short story collection, *Un posto difficile da raggiungere* (Arkadia). *The Weight of Absence* is his debut novel.

Eva is twelve years old when her younger sister Sara dies by drowning. Eva's parents react to the dramatical loss by erasing every trace of her existence - they will never even speak her name again - leaving Eva alone in her grief. The girl finds refuge in mutism at first and develops eating disorders later. Years pass and the shy girl gets a chance to start over when, thanks to a school project, she leaves for Cardiff, England. She will return home only fifteen years later, aged thirty, with the precise aim of gathering information on her sister and thus reconstructing her existence. In these fifteen years, Eva has erased herself, becoming Nicky in Cardiff, Blu in Paris, Viola in Berlin, Dora in Palermo, Lili in Bologna, Nives in Barcelona... In every city in which she lands she becomes a different woman, but as the words have it: you can't outrun yourself, no matter how hard you try. In Berlin she will finally meet Lupo, who is also a fugitive: he has left the hippy community in which his parents have raised him to become a circus performer. Lupo will introduce Eva to his "chosen family" the one that accepts him and with whom he travels from circus to circus to perform and live according to the bohemian lifestyle he feels comfortable with, tracing a new path for Eva, one which will perhaps enable him to discover her real name, her secret name.

Olga Gambari is an independent art curator, critic and journalist. She was artistic director of The Others Art Fair, of the international independent art festival Nesxt and director of the editorial project artesera. She teaches History of Contemporary Art and Phenomenology of Contemporary Arts at the IED-European Institute of Design.



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.

LUCA RAGAGNIN

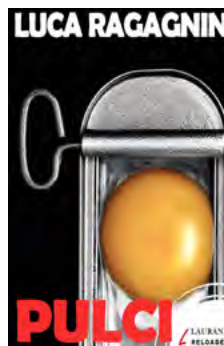
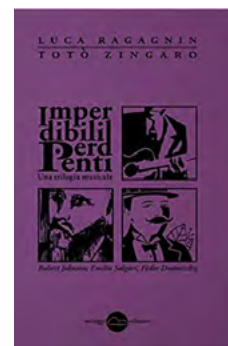


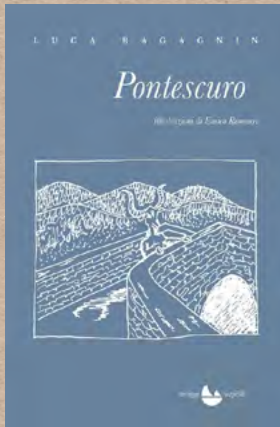
Luca posing next to his portrait as seen by photographer Guglielmina Otter

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

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INTERMITTENTLY BERG

by **Luca Ragagnin**

Miraggi Edizioni, 672 p

**TRANSLATION RIGHTS
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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.

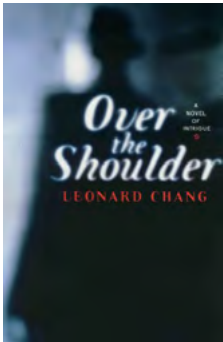
Little Berg lives with his mother. Grown-up Berg sees an industrial landscape from his window, among this two ages events take place. Objects become important and then irrelevant. Words substitute objects while the child changes names and identities. He has a father who owns a yellow Beetle with pink dots and teaches him the names of trees and mushrooms. He has grandparents in the city who educate him to the philosophical use of agnolotti and the contemplation of Lego blocks. He has sea-faring grandparents who accompany him in his growth, from a kitchen with a window overlooking the waves or from a magical closet. Berg grows up reshaping reality, in a continuous pouring of imagination.

As a child he has many "enemies", he gradually gets familiar with the metaphysical danger of objects, the inexorability of other people's thoughts, the years of lead. As a boy -amazed and incredulous -love and the awakening of an entire industrial city. As an adult, the strength and abandonment, the mute crowding and a loneliness that sizzles with its many inner voices. He finds God in a beach cabin - then loses him in an underground canteen.

A composable and intermittent story that jumps among the eras of Berg's life, which are also the eras of our recent history and which are, perhaps, the eras in the life of all of us, displaying the fragmented ego we all try to piece together.

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.



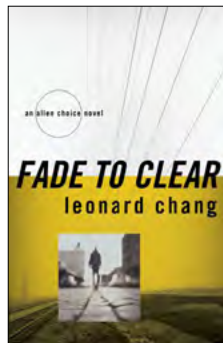
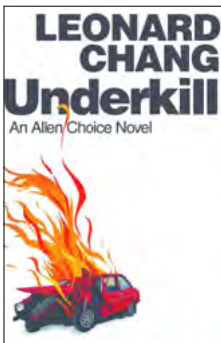
OVER THE SHOULDERS

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

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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.

The other two titles of the series:



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.”

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.



WASTE OF TIMELESSNESS AND OTHER EARLY STORIES

by **Anaïs Nin**

Ohio Swallow, 376-400 p

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

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

Ohio U.P., 170 p

**BULGARIAN, DUTCH, FINNISH,
FRENCH, ITALIAN, NORWEGIAN,
ROMANIAN AND SWEDISH
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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

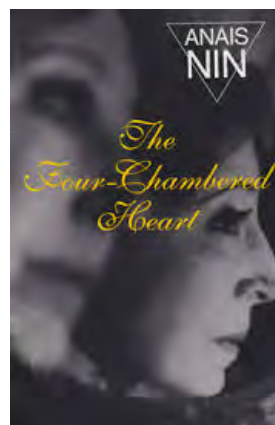
Winter of Artifice was first published in 1945. The book opens with a film star, Stella, studying her own, but alien, image on the screen. It ends in the Manhattan office of a psychoanalyst - the Voice who, as he counsels patients suffering from the maladies of modern life, reveals himself as equally 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.

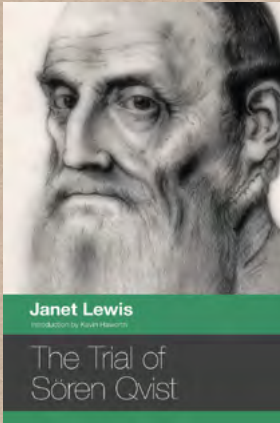
Winter of Artifice represents a literary artist coming into her own, with the formal experimentation, thematic daring, and psychological intrigue that became her hallmarks.

"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

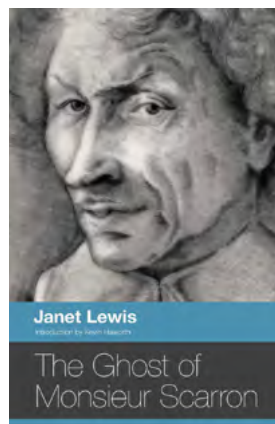
Based on a notorious seventeenth century trial is one of three novels making up **Lewis's Cases of Circumstantial Evidence**

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

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THE BLACK BOX

by **Alek Popov**

English edition:

Peter Owen, 416 p

**DANISH, GERMAN, ENGLISH,
ITALIAN, SERBIAN, SPANISH,
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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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