

LIEPMAN AG

Literary Agency

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FBF 2018: FICTION, selected new titles (Literary / Upmarket – Commercial – Suspense – ausgewählte deutschsprachige Projekte)

Literary/ Upmarket



Jerome Charyn THE PERILOUS ADVENTURES OF THE COWBOY KING: A NOVEL OF TEDDY ROOSEVELT AND HIS TIMES

Client: Georges Borchardt Inc.
Publisher: Liveright / W.W. Norton
January 2019

Raising the literary bar to a new level, Jerome Charyn re-creates the voice of Theodore Roosevelt, the New York City police commissioner, Rough Rider, and soon-to-be twenty-sixth president through his derring-do adventures, effortlessly combining superhero dialogue with haunting pathos. Beginning with his sickly childhood and concluding with McKinley's assassination, the novel positions Roosevelt as a "perfect bull in a china shop," a fearless crime fighter and pioneering environmentalist who would grow up to be our greatest peacetime president.

"Warning: don't turn to the first page of Jerome Charyn's remarkable new work of fiction The Perilous Adventures of the Cowboy King unless you have time to be utterly swept away for the next ___ hours." **Joyce Carol Oates**

"Jerome Charyn is a one off: no other living American writer crafts novels with his vibrancy of historical imagination. If you think his novels about Dickinson and Lincoln are virtuosic works of art, The Cowboy King will astonish you anew. Here is Teddy Roosevelt as you've never before experienced him, and as you won't soon forget him." William Gibaldi, author of *American Audacity: In Defense of Literary Daring*

Contact: Marc Korálnik



Michael Crummey THE BLINDER

Client: The Cooke Agency International Inc
Publisher: Doubleday Canada
Fall 2019
241 pp.

Crummey's work has been shortlisted for every major Canadian prize and have sold over 225,000 copies in North America. In this new novel the classic Canadian literature of Alistair MacLeod meets Gabriel Tallent's *My Absolute Darling* and Emma Donoghue's *Room*

THE BLINDER is a searing, brilliant, and immersive story of pre-adolescent brother and sister Evererd and Ada, orphaned, living alone, isolated from society, who create a world of two, with devastating consequences, from an author who is recognized as one of the most important writers in Canada.

Michael Crummey is the author of a memoir, *Newfoundland: Journey into a Lost Nation*, three books of poetry including *Arguments with Gravity*, winner of the Writers' Alliance of Newfoundland and Labrador Book Award for Poetry, and a book of short stories *Flesh & Blood*. His first novel, *River Thieves*, was a finalist for the 2001 Scotiabank Giller Prize; and his second novel *The Wreckage* was a national bestseller and a finalist for the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize. His third novel, *Galore*, won the Commonwealth Writers' Prize and was a finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award. He lives in St. John's, Newfoundland.

"Beautifully capturing the wild, rugged landscape, Crummey has written a novel about love for the land one is from." VANITY FAIR on *Sweetland*

Contact: Hannah Fosh



Anthony De Sa
CHILDREN OF THE MOON

Client: The Cooke Agency International Inc
Publisher: Doubleday Canada
April 2019
268 pp.

For readers of Khaled Hosseini, Jennifer Clement's *Prayers for the Stolen*, and *Beasts of No Nation*

In the wispy grasslands of Tanzania in the 1950s, a Maasai woman gives birth to a miracle. The other villagers see the baby as a curse. The baby – a daughter, named Kibo – has skin as white as bone, and from her first moments on earth, she is forced to claim her life in spite of the violence she incites. As she grows, Kibo sheds her identity to become Lioe, and then Po, continuously trying to adjust herself so that she can fit into the world around her. Further south, in Portuguese-occupied Mozambique, a young boy, Ezequiel, has been adopted by two missionaries. Zeca, too, struggles with a lack of acceptance. Not recognized by his Portuguese father's community, or by his Makonde mother's tribe, Zeca lives his life on the borders of both worlds. And when civil war erupts in Mozambique, Zeca must choose what – and who – he is willing to leave behind.

A stunning exploration of the costs of war, and a tender narrative of love and redemption, CHILDREN OF THE MOON is a startlingly truthful portrait of two outsiders, coming together in a time of momentous change.

Anthony De Sa grew up in Toronto's Portuguese community. Anthony's first book, *Barnacle Love*, was critically acclaimed and became a finalist for the 2008 Scotiabank Giller Prize and the 2009 Toronto Book Award. Anthony's debut novel, *Kicking the Sky*, is set in 1977, the year a twelve-year-old shoeshine boy named Emanuel Jaques was brutally raped and murdered in Toronto. Anthony graduated from University of Toronto and did his post-graduate work at Queen's University. He attended The Humber School for Writers and Ryerson University. He lives in Toronto with his wife and three boys.

"Anthony De Sa moves with skill and ingenuity between folk tale, myth and narratives of contemporary displacement. The tone is spare and elegiac; the stories are filled with carefully chosen details and sharply drawn characters. They have immense emotional and truthful power De Sa's short fiction as the stories are filled with carefully chosen details and sharply drawn characters. They have immense emotional and truthful power." Colm Tóibín

Contact: Hannah Fosh



Cary Fagan
THE STUDENT

Client: Transatlantic Literary Agency Inc.
Publisher: Freehand Books
Spring 2019

In the tradition of *Mrs. Dalloway* by Virginia Woolf and reminiscent of *Brooklyn* by Colm Tóibín, Cary Fagan brings Miriam fully to life in masterful prose full of beauty and insight

Part One. In the fall of 1957, Miriam Moscovitz is a serious and passionate young student of literature at the University of Toronto, an insightful reader of the new critics, of T.S. Eliot, of Beckett. And she is a dutiful if headstrong Jewish daughter, the apple of her father's eye, the worry of her mother. She studies hard, goes to college parties, works summers, dates a young Jewish man with a good job, worships the professors whose offices she visits in the hallowed quadrangle of beautiful, stately University College. Life seems to be going just as she wants it. Until she asks a professor to recommend her for the graduate program at the university and discovers that she's not welcome. Everything changes for Miriam, who begins a reckless affair with an American student obsessed with the civil rights clashes in the south. When the young man abandons her to join the movement back home, Miriam gets on a bus to follow him, no longer sure of anything in her life.

Part Two. Sunday, August 1, 2005. Miriam is seventy years old. The family descends on her house in preparation for the marriage ceremony of her son Michael, one of the first gay marriages in the country. A retired professor and a grandmother, Miriam finds her life upended by the knowledge that her husband, a doctor several years younger, is having another affair. While trying to take care of her family as well as help a woman Muslim student, she faces anew the question of how to live.

Cary Fagan is a highly acclaimed, award-winning author of picture books and novels for kids in addition to his acclaim as an author of novels and anthologies for adults. He is the author of a YA biography of dancer Chan Hon Goh, *Beyond the Dance*, a finalist for the Norma Fleck Award. He lives in Toronto with his two daughters.

Contact: Hannah Fosh



James Gregor
GOING DUTCH

Client: Frances Goldin Literary Agency
Publisher: Simon & Schuster
August 2019

A sly and humorous portrait of modern relationships and an urban comedy of manners, James Gregor's GOING DUTCH finds a struggling gay male graduate student in an unexpected – yet stirring – relationship with his brilliant female classmate

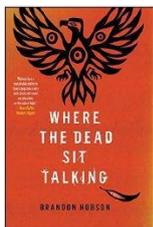
Exhausted by countless dead-end forays in the gay dating scene, surrounded constantly by friends but deeply lonely, stimulated by his life in New York City but drifting, twenty-something-year-old graduate student Richard has plenty of sources of anxiety. But his most immediate issue is his crippling writer's block, which if it continues for much longer will entirely derail his already tenuous academic career.

When his classmate, Anne, offers to "help" him write his papers, Richard knows she probably has romantic intentions in spite of what he feels to be his fairly obvious sexual orientation. Still, he can't bring himself to refuse her much needed aid. It also doesn't hurt that Anne is an heiress, one who tends to fold those close to her into her idyllic NY lifestyle, and Richard is desperately broke. Richard is surprised to find that there may be more to their connection than he originally thought. But when a fling with Blake, a desirable if unusually conservative man, starts to turn into a committed relationship, Richard finds himself strangely unwilling to detach from Anne, an indecision which sets him on a romantic and existential collision course.

GOING DUTCH is a novel about the things that emotionally ravenous people seek from and do to each other. Humorous but incisive the book is an urban comedy of manners that also considers how we can end up getting nourishment from the relationships we least expect.

James Gregor holds an MFA in Fiction from Columbia, where he studied with Gary Shteyngart, Ben Marcus, Darcey Steinke. He has been a writer in residence at the Villa Lena Foundation in Tuscany and a bookseller at Shakespeare & Company bookshop in Paris. James was born and grew up in Canada. This is his first novel.

Contact: Hannah Fosh



Brandon Hobson
WHERE THE DEAD SIT TALKING

Client: Frances Goldin Literary Agency
Publisher: Soho
February 2018

Longlist 2018 National Book Award

Set in rural Oklahoma during the late 1980s, WHERE THE DEAD SIT TALKING is a startling, authentically voiced and lyrically written Native American coming-of-age story

With his single mother in jail, Sequoyah, a 15-year-old Cherokee boy, is placed in foster care with the Troutt family. Literally and figuratively scarred by his mother's years of substance abuse, he keeps mostly to himself, living with his emotions pressed deep below the surface. At least until he meets 17-year-old Rosemary, another youth staying with the Troutts. Sequoyah and Rosemary bond over their shared Native American background and tumultuous paths through the foster care system, but as Sequoyah's feelings toward Rosemary deepen, the precariousness of their lives and the scars of their pasts threaten to undo them both.

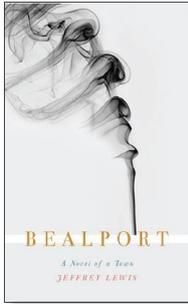
Brandon Hobson is the author of four books and has won a Pushcart Prize. His stories and essays have appeared in *Conjunctions*, *The Believer*, *The Paris Review Daily* etc. He is an enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation Tribe of Oklahoma.

"Weird and intimate, like Ottessa Moshfegh's *Eileen*, WHERE THE DEAD SIT TALKING takes us to a strange, dangerous place normally kept hidden. From the opening hook, with the unhurried authority of a master, Brandon Hobson initiates the reader into the secret lives of lost and unwanted teenagers trying to survive in an uncaring world. Creepy, sad, yet queerly thrilling." Stewart O'Nan

"(A) poignant and disturbing coming-of-age story... Hobson presents a painfully visceral drama about the overlooked lives of those struggling on the periphery of mainstream society." BOOKLIST

"A smart, dark novel of adolescence, death, and rural secrets set in late-1980s Oklahoma. Hobson's narrative control is stunning, carrying the reader through scenes and timelines with verbal grace and sparse detail. Far more than a mere coming-of-age story, this is a remarkable and moving novel." PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

Contact: Hannah Fosh



Jeffrey Lewis
BEALPORT

Client: Haus Publishing Ltd
Publisher: HAUS PUBLISHING
April 2018
220 pp.

An old shoe factory in a coastal New England town is up for sale again. When a private equity mogul with a fondness for the factory's shoes buys it, he sets in motion a story with profound implications for the way we live today

The people of Bealport depend on Norumbega. Their livelihoods, their self-respect and their interconnectedness are all at stake. The shadow of the factory's fate looms over the people of the town. Idiosyncratic and humane, the cast is the kind that small communities under threat produce. Bealport is a portrait of a place, at once sympathetic, mordant, unsparing, comic, tragic and universal, and of a way of life that is passing. It is a novel of a town, and to no small degree of every town in America and beyond.

Jeffrey Lewis has twice won the Independent Publisher Gold Medal for Literary Fiction as well as two Emmys and the Writers Guild Award for his work as a writer and producer of the critically acclaimed television series *Hill Street Blues*. He is the author of *Meritocracy: A Love Story*, *Adam the King*, *The Conference of the Birds*, *Theme Song for an Old Show*, *Berlin Cantata* and the *Inquisitor's Diary*.

Contact: Marc Koralnik



Cho Nam-joo
KIM JIYOUNG, BORN IN 1982

Client: THE GRAYHAWK AGENCY
Publisher: Minumsa October 2016, 192 pp

Foreign sales: Azoth (Taiwan), Women's Publishing House (Vietnam), Earnest (Thailand), Chikuma Shobo (Japan), Xiron (China)

Film will start shooting in 2019, with Jung Yu-mi cast as the lead

Written in the format of psychiatric report with simple and clinical prose, this is the life story of an "everywoman" in modern Korea. A literary phenomenon: As the story of KIM JIYOUNG, BORN IN 1982 rings so true, it's been enthusiastically embraced by female readers since publication. It has also been identified as a feminist, men-hating manual by certain groups of men

Kim Jiyoung is the most common name for Korean women born in the 80s, and the title character is indeed representative of her generation. She's an ordinary 30-something, married a couple years ago and quit her job to take care of her baby full time. One day, Jiyoung begin to speak in other people's voices: first her mother, then her husband's college classmate. The impersonation is so perfect it's almost as if she's been possessed. At first the husband dismisses the incidents as jokes, but Jiyoung's situation deteriorates and soon it becomes clear that she's suffering from some sort of mental disorder.

Jiyoung's husband arranges therapy sessions for her with a psychiatrist, who begins to record her life story: at home, the grandmother favors her brother and keeps all the best food for him; in primary school, she suffers bullying from boys, who are not punished but only mildly scolded; as a high student, she is sexually harassed by a man on the bus, then blamed by her own father for wearing "skirts that are too short"; when looking for a job, her college professor would only recommend male students; in the office, she has to do more work than her male colleagues, but is paid significantly less.

Kim Jiyoung never recovers from her strange symptoms. She still "turns" into other women – always and only, women - from time to time, the impersonation always pitch perfect.

The novel offers an honest and chillingly realistic look at the situation of women in Korean society: the gender discrimination, the ever-present misogyny, and the shocking gender pay gap (up to 40%).

Cho Nam-joo born 1978 in Seoul, graduated from the Department of Sociology of Ehwa Women's University and worked as a screenwriter for TV programs. Her novel *When you carefully hear* (2011) won the Munhakdongne Novel Award and *For Comaneci* (2016) won the Hwangsanbeol Award for Young Adult Literature.

Contact: Marc Koralnik



Jenny Offill
AMERICAN WEATHER

Client: Union Literary
Publisher: Knopf
September 2019
200pp

NN Editore, ITALY
Granta, UK

From the author of the nationwide bestseller *Dept. of Speculation* – one of the New York Times Book Review's 10 Best Books of the Year – a shimmering tour de force about a family, and a nation, in crisis

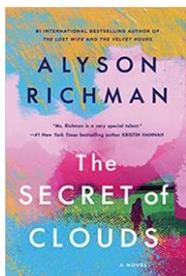
Lizzie Benson slid into her job as a librarian without a traditional degree. But this gives her a vantage point from which to practice her other calling: she is a fake shrink. For years, she has tended to her God-haunted mother and her recovering addict brother. They have both stabilized for the moment, but Lizzie has little chance to spend her new free time with husband and son before her old mentor, Sylvia Liller, makes a proposal. She's become famous for her prescient podcast, Hell and High Water, and wants to hire Lizzie to answer the mail she receives: from left-wingers worried about climate change and right wingers worried about the decline of western civilization.

As Lizzie dives into this polarized world, she begins to wonder what it means to keep tending your own garden once you've seen the flames beyond its walls. When her brother becomes a father and Sylvia a recluse, Lizzie is forced to address the limits of her own experience--but still she tries to save everyone, using everything she's learned about empathy and despair, conscience and collusion, from her years of wandering the library stacks...And all the while the voices of the city keep floating in- funny, disturbing, and increasingly mad.

Jenny Offill is the author of *Dept. of Speculation* (D: DVA 2014), which was chosen as one of the ten best books of the year by The New York Times, and *Last Things* (D: S. Fischer 2000), which was a New York Times Notable Book and a finalist for the Los Angeles Times First Book Award. She teaches in the writing programs at Queens University, Brooklyn College, and Columbia University.

"Jenny Offill's *Dept. of Speculation* is a novel that readers not only admired but fell headlong in love with, and this new book promises the same irresistible combination of stylistic innovation, linguistic exhilaration, humour, truth and sheer emotional intensity." Laura Barber (editorial director Granta UK)

Contact: Hannah Fosh



Alyson Richman
THE SECRET OF CLOUDS

Client: Union Literary
Publisher: Berkley
February 2019
384 pp

Cappelens Damm, NORWAY; Penn, ISRAEL
(dt. Veröffentlichung unter Pseudonym möglich)

An emotionally charged story about a mother's love, a teacher's promise, and a child's heart...

Katya, a rising ballerina, and Sasha, a graduate student, are young and in love when an unexpected tragedy befalls their native Kiev. Years later, after the couple has safely emigrated to America the consequences of this incident cause their son, Yuri, to be born with a rare health condition that isolates him from other children. Maggie, a passionate and dedicated teacher agrees to tutor Yuri at his home, even though she is haunted by her own painful childhood memories. As the two forge a deep and soulful connection, Yuri's boundless curiosity and unique wisdom inspires Maggie to make difficult changes in her own life. And she'll never realize just how strong Yuri has made her — until she needs that strength the most...

A novel that will make readers examine what it means to live life with a full heart.

Alyson Richman is the author of *The Mask Carver's Son* (D: dtv 2000), *The Rhythm of Memory* (D: dtv 2003), *The Last Van Gogh*, *The Lost Wife* (D: Diana Verlag 2017), *The Garden of Letters* (D: Diana Verlag 2016), and *The Velvet Hours* (D: Diana Verlag). She lives in Long Island with her Husband and two children.

"Alyson Richman weaves storytelling magic with an extraordinary cast of characters: a compassionate young teacher, a precocious but ailing student, and an immigrant couple with a uniquely tragic past. Readers have come to expect Richman's luscious prose and vivid details, but in THE SECRET OF CLOUDS, she delivers even more – I was thoroughly captivated by this deeply personal tale of perseverance, acceptance, and the heart's capacity for love." Lynda Cohen Loigman

Contact: Hannah Fosh



Susan Swan
THE DEAD CELEBRITIES CLUB

Client: Transatlantic Literary Agency Inc.
Publisher: Cormorant Books
Spring 2019

For fans of *The Wolf of Wall Street* and *The Sellout* by Paul Beatty comes Swan's latest novel THE DEAD CELEBRITIES, a satirical gem about the ultimate con man who might just fall into the trap of his own con

From multiple prize finalist and internationally bestselling author Susan Swan, whose fiction has been published in fifteen countries and translated into eight languages, comes THE DEAD CELEBRITIES, a timely novel filled with action and satire featuring the hedge fund whale, Dale Paul, a witty, self-absorbed rogue and raconteur. Who may or may not be an unreliable narrator (okay, he's unreliable).

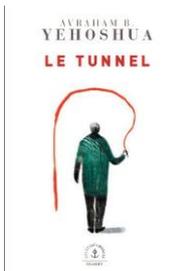
However, charm and childhood connections to billionaire media personality Earl Lindquist- a candidate for the American presidency, touting divisive new policies- aren't enough to stop Dale Paul from being sent to an upstate New York white collar jail on multiple counts of fraud for gambling away U.S. military pensions.

Promising himself to earn back his son's previously gambled inheritance (the hedge fund, remember?) Dale Paul dreams up an illegal lottery for his fellow inmates based on the death of old and frail celebrities called The Dead Celebrities Club. And as an added perk, he manages to take revenge on old friends like Earl who have abandoned him while he's in the slammer.

Disgraced and for once in his life, penniless, Dale Paul's relationships with his family deteriorate while he works on his scheme to make himself rich again. Win or lose, Dale Paul goes through a sea change that may (or may not) make a new man of him. But will the enterprising gambler get caught in his own con?

Susan Swan's critically acclaimed fiction has been published in fifteen countries and translated into eight languages. Swan's last novel, *The Western Light* published in 2012 is a prequel to *The Wives of Bath*, her bestselling gothic novel about a murder in a girls' school. A finalist for the Guardian Fiction Prize and the Trillium Book Award, *The Wives of Bath* was made into the feature film *Lost and Delirious*, shown in 32 countries. A previous novel *What Casanova Told Me* was a finalist for the Commonwealth Writers' Prize; it was named a top book of the year by The Globe and Mail and published by Knopf, Canada, Bloomsbury U.S. and in Spain, Russia, Poland, Serbia and Portugal. Swan's other novels include *The Last of the Golden Girls*, published in Canada and the U.S., and *Stupid Boys are Good to Relax With*. Swan lives in Toronto. She was awarded York University's Robarts Chair in Canadian Studies in 2000.

Contact: Hannah Fosh



Abraham B. Yehoshua
THE TUNNEL

Publisher: Hakibbutz Hameuchad, 2018
Rights sold: Houghton Mifflin, Einaudi, Grasset

Weltliteratur!
Französische und italienische Übersetzung da

Zvi Luria, a retired engineer, has just been diagnosed with early signs of dementia. His memory is shrinking, his world becoming a tunnel

"Yehoshua is so graceful and eloquent that his work is timeless." THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW

"THE TUNNEL, the 12th novel by A.B. Yehoshua, is a well-made, polished work of fiction, one of the author's finest achievements. It also exemplifies Yehoshua's storytelling artistry in its latest and most mature phase. He maintains a steady balance between the complexity or "significance" of its themes and its intricate plot, on the one hand, and his narrative prose, which is clear, lean, sharp, carefully sculpted, fully controlled by the sure hand of an expert artist." Dan Miron, prologue to a four-part essay in the Ha'aretz literary supplement

"Yehoshua, as ever, excels in writing vivid, cinematic scenes, and readers will sense that his storytelling power has not diminished, but has improved, as he creates a cast of characters and constructs multi-voiced dialogue while maintaining the right dosage of narrative suspense. The protagonist, Zvi Luria, is not portrayed as "unfortunate" in any respect. On the contrary, the narrator gives his demented hero the status of an uncanny sage, a sort of blind prophet who sees the world better than others do." HA'ARETZ literary supplement

"With great delicacy, sensitivity and care befitting an experienced author, devoted to his craft, Yehoshua transforms his hero's dementia into the main literary device that serves as a systematic, intensive technique that encompasses the work. This book reconfirms that Yehoshua is a unique author, brimming with fresh ideas, passionately immersed in the story he is telling." HA'ARETZ

"THE TUNNEL is A.B. Yehoshua at his best. He creates a dense pattern of images, symbols and clever allusions to current events and literature, which create a sort of antithesis to the realistic dementia in the form of a rich, multi-layered twilight zone." Yisrael Hayom

"In his best book in years, A.B. Yehoshua examines the founding myths of Zionism. His message will stay with you for a long time." Yediot Aharonot

"A. B. Yehoshua knows his work well. This is abundantly clear: the characters touch the heart, their relationships constitute an entire world, the writing is multi-layered, the message is piercing, the reading flows smoothly, and most of all – it's hard to put the book down." Lalsha

"As always, you have not avoided taking a hard look at reality. Your gaze is searing, sober and eye-opening . . . Your clear voice and sharp vision, your weaver's hand, are important to all Israelis. How good that you have succeeded in writing this after losing Ika, of blessed memory, who is very much present in the book: her voice, her love, her guiding heart." Reuven Rivlin, President of the State of Israel, in a personal letter to A.B. Yehoshua

Abraham B. Yehoshua was born in 1936, in Jerusalem. His debut *The Lover*, published in 1977, established his international renown. He wrote over a dozen of novels, all of them translated into more than twenty languages and received numerous international awards, most recently the prix Médicis étranger, le Prix du meilleur livre étranger, Premio Internazionale "Antonio Feltrinelli" and the Dan David Prize. Yehoshua has been compared to William Faulkner and named "an author of Nobel reach" (Montreal Gazette).

Contact: Marc Koralnik

Commercial



Miranda Hill CONDUCT

Client: Transatlantic Literary Agency Inc.
Publisher: Knopf Canada
Fall 2019

Set between 1890 and the 1960s against the backdrops of Pittsburgh, the world's factory and Muskoka, where the rich come to play, CONDUCT is a multi-generational novel that considers how our lives are shaped by the stories we select to tell and the secrets we try to keep

It all begins in 1890. Lady Ada and Evelyn are traveling by train toward Pittsburgh and two very different futures, one affluent, the other quite the opposite. Ada is reluctantly making a journey toward a marriage to a man she has never met (arranged by her once-respected British family); Evelyn is on her way to work as a domestic servant in one of the city's finer houses. This chance meeting between Ada and Evelyn, and the envy it triggers when they impulsively switch identities, is the beginning of a recurring connection, weaving together their contrasting lives—from the drawing rooms of upper class Pittsburgh homes, to its factories and slums, and then over the border to the golden age of the grand hotels of Muskoka, the destination of a new and glamorous set of "pleasure seekers"—and ultimately impacting their families over several decades of shifting fortunes and remarkable circumstances.

With her proven eye for insight into human relationships, in CONDUCT Miranda Hill considers the ties between toil and leisure, the captains of industry and the working class, disease and health, and the elements that determine our place in the world, whether chance or choice.

With the historical sweep of Mordecai Richler's *Solomon Gursky Was Here* and the vibrant characters as in Andrea Levy's *Small Island* or Michael Chabon's *Kavalier and Clay*, CONDUCT will appeal to the quality lover and book club reader in us all.

Winner of Canada's most prestigious short story prize, the Writers Trust/McClelland & Stewart Journey Prize, **Miranda Hill's** stories have appeared in *The Globe and Mail*, *The New Quarterly* etc. Her debut collection *Sleeping Funny* (2012), was one of the bestselling and well-reviewed collections of the year. Hill is the founder and executive director of the literary charity Project Bookmark Canada. She lives in Hamilton, Ontario.

Contact: Hannah Fosh



Kate McAlister THE VALLEY OF PINK LOTUS

Client: L'Archipel
Publisher: L'Archipel
October 2018
656 pp.

Historical

In the spirit of Tamara McKinley and Sarah Lark

1918. Jezebel, a 16-year-old English aristocrat, is joining her legal guardian, a famous archaeologist. On the ship bringing her to Calcutta, she falls in love with Jan, an American adventurer. When she lands, she learns she will marry baron von Rosenheim. Her legal guardian wants to secure her future by selling her to a cruel and unemotional man, in exchange for funding his archaeological studies.

Jezebel reaches to find consolation with Charu, Maharaja's son, who makes her discover mysterious India with its magnificent landscapes, fragrances, colours. Soon Jezebel faces a dilemma: to accept a marriage of convenience, or listen to her heart. Because she did not forget Jan. And Charu is very charming...

Kate McAlister is married and has two children. Fascinated by his grand-father who was a colonel in Asia during Golden Years, she is passionate about India, Malaysia and China. After studying art and cinema, she was graphic designer before beginning to write. THE VALLEY OF PINK LOTUS is the first volume of a trilogy.

Contact: Marc Koralnik

Sara Sycamore
BROKEN ENGLISH

Client: Teresa Chris Literary Agency Ltd

Publisher: On submission in UK

Four English women, living in France, are drawn together by the tenuous thread of being foreign

To city girl, Jules, rural France is a shock to the system. But she cannot hide from herself, even in the little town of Bonneville. She is caught between an uncomfortable past and an uncertain future, with an old love and a new passion to consider. Angelica, fey and bohemian, no longer knows what she wants. She tries to find what she is looking for by misbehaving, but it is not until she looks beyond her own self-interest, that she finds the clue to future happiness. For all that Rachel embraces the rural idyll, she struggles with invisibility and a husband who has forgotten she is a woman. Yet when fate tears her family apart, Rachel finds new courage, and in doing so, establishes herself in her own right. Rose understands secrets. She understands the currents that churn beneath Bonneville's quiet surface. The death of Agnès Boucher, the baker's wife, on New Year's day, is not clear cut, whatever Inspector Dumas might say publicly. But Rose too, hides a secret, that finally forces itself up to the light.

Inspector Claude Dumas trusts his policeman's nose. Officially, the death of Agnès Boucher is not suspicious, but there are one or two locals he suspects. And these expat women, if they aren't actually on Dumas's list of suspects, they are interfering, giving him ideas. Bonneville may be small, but all of life is here. Its dramas, disappointments and delights are played out as French and English try to rub along.

Sara Sycamore was born in London, but moved to Leeds as a child and has carried on moving ever since. After a brief tussle with art college and time spent proving that she shouldn't be a secretary, she decamped to London to work in marketing and public relations roles. Short story writing was Sara's creative outlet in the face of corporate strategising, and her stories were published in magazines such as Woman's Own, New Idea and Woman's Day (Australia). Sara now lives in South-West France. Discovering for herself the difficulties and excitement of building a new life abroad, and observing how expats survive and reinvent themselves, inspired her to write her first novel.

Contact: Hannah Fosh



Alison Taylor
AFTERSHOCK

Client: Transatlantic Literary Agency Inc.

Publisher: Harper Collins Canada

For readers of Gail Honeyman and Maria Semple comes the compulsively readable, story driven upmarket book club debut AFTERSHOCK by Alison Taylor

Meet Jules, Chloe's middle-aged mother, whose history of chronic pain turns her into an opiate addict in danger of losing her job and the life she has built for herself, and Chloe, her frustrated daughter, a millennial lesbian, clearly not getting the support she needs as she navigates the tough waters of early adult life. Connected by trauma, both mother and daughter are unable to address the emotional impact and secrets surrounding the tragic death of a baby sister, years prior.

Chloe was six when the baby died. Nightmares haunt her still. After Chloe drops out of university to travel for a year, Jules's Oxy dependency quickly becomes problematic. We follow their parallel journeys: Jules struggles to regain control of her life, and to come to terms with the emotional pain that has so long manifested itself in her body. Chloe, after a rocky visit with her estranged father and his new family in New Zealand, resolves to go off the map, hoping it will help her understand her place in the world.

When Jules suddenly can't find her daughter, it is all too familiar. Shared trauma has driven them a world apart, but they will need to find each other again to begin to heal.

Alison Taylor is a writer, stand-up comic and video artist whose work has screened internationally. She has an MFA in film from York University and is a graduate of the Humber School for Writers. She has previously published in Exile Literary Quarterly and is currently working on her next novel, in which three estranged siblings are forced to reunite after their mother suffers a debilitating stroke. Originally from Hamilton, Ontario, Alison currently splits her time between Toronto, where she works as a television editor, and Fredericton, where her partner lives with their two cats.

Contact: Hannah Fosh



Shelley Wood
THE QUINTLAND SISTERS

Client: Transatlantic Literary Agency Inc.
Publisher: William Morrow
Winter 2018

For fans of Paula McLain and Wayne Johnston and readers of *The Birth House* by Ami McKay, comes Shelley Wood's mesmerizing debut novel, *THE QUINTLAND SISTERS* – a tour de force of imagination, taking readers inside the devastating true story of the Dionne Quintuplets and through the most significant custody battle in Canadian history

Emma Trimpany is just 17 when, by twist of fate, she ends up assisting at the harrowing birth of the Dionne quintuplets: five identical sisters born into hardscrabble Northern Ontario in the 1930s. When the babies are removed from their Francophone parents, becoming Wards of the King to be raised by an Anglophone doctor, Emma is hired on as their nurse.

Other caregivers cycle through the Dionne Nursery at a disquieting pace as the girls become the most lucrative tourist attraction of the Great Depression, drawing visitors from around the globe. Emma—shy, with a disfiguring birthmark and an eye for quirky detail—records everything in her diary, her love for the girls blinding her to the danger of remaining in their lives.

As the bitter custody battle over the quintuplets reaches a fever pitch, Emma finds herself torn between the fishbowl sanctuary of Quintland and the call of the wider world, now teetering on the brink of war.

THE QUINTLAND SISTERS is a work of fiction steeped in research, a coming-of-age novel bound up in one of the strangest true tales of the past century.

Shelley Wood worked for more than a decade as a medical journalist before trying her hand at fiction. Her short stories, creative nonfiction, travel writing, and essays have appeared in the *Nashwaak Review*, *The New Quarterly*, *The Antigonish Review*, *Room*, *carte blanche*, *Bath Flash Fiction*, and *The Globe and Mail*. She has won the *Tethered by Letters F(r)iction* contest, the *Okanagan Short Story Contest*, the *Cobalt Review's Frank McCourt* prize for creative nonfiction, and the *Causeway Lit* nonfiction contest. As a health reporter and editor, Wood has won several *Canadian Online Publishing Awards*, the *U.S. Online News Award for Specialty Site journalism*, and the *National Institute of Health Care Management (U.S.) print journalism prize*. She is also the host of the prizewinning *Heart Sounds* podcast. *THE QUINTLAND SISTERS* is her first novel.

Contact: Hannah Fosh

Suspense

Stephanie Austin DEAD IN DEVON

Client: Teresa Chris Literary Agency Ltd
Publisher: On submission in UK

DEAD IN DEVON is a murder mystery set on Dartmoor in the moorland town of Ashburton. Juno Browne ventures into the fascinating world of antiques when she begins work for Old Nick, a dealer with a murky past and some mysterious and menacing customers. But when Nick is brutally murdered it seems they are not the only ones with a motive for killing him. Can Nick's own family be trusted? And what is everyone searching for? When Juno discovers that Nick has left her his antique shop, and another dealer meets with a nasty end, she realises that she must find Nick's killer or risk becoming a victim herself.

Stephanie Austin lives in Devon with her husband Martin. Her experience in theatre and her own meandering career path as artist, astrologer and dabbler in antiques, led to the creation of Juno Browne and her eclectic assortment of friends. This is her first novel.

Contact: Hannah Fosh

Karen Dietrich THE BOTTOM OF THE DEEP BLUE SEA

Client: The Martell Agency
Publisher: Grand Central 2020

Psychological thriller

“My father is a murderer. Six months before I was born, he walked into Ponce de Leon Mall in St. Augustine, Florida. By the time he walked out, he was a murderer. When I say it out loud, something inside me gets bigger. Not noticeably so – in fact, only I can tell. I feel my rib cage expand, as if I’m breathing in as deeply as I can, only it’s not air that I’m full of – it’s something else. Sometimes it feels cold and I imagine mercury pooling inside me, liquid that makes me heavy and dense. Other times it feels hot as a grease fire, glowing lava running through me until I’m bright as the burning man.”

So begins Karen Dietrich's gripping, moving psychological thriller, THE BOTTOM OF THE DEEP BLUE SEA, narrated with unforgettable intensity by conflicted sixteen year old Evelyn Gibson. Burdened by the unbearable weight of her father's breathtakingly violent act, which landed him on death row, Evelyn has for years burrowed deep inside herself, struggling to form a stable sense of who she really is even as she attempts to appear the ordinary teenager, living an ordinary life. Outside the ordinary, she also attends a support group for the children of incarcerated parents, meeting her mirror image in Clarisse, whose father is also under capital sentence. As Evelyn and Clarisse become tight friends and share thoughts and emotions that very few people can understand, they devise a secret "test" that they will one day put into practice when the moment is right. The test is intended to prove – or disprove – a haunting question: are they just like their fathers, do they bear their fathers' DNA, that of cold blooded murderers able to kill without hesitation or remorse, or have they escaped that brutal sentence?

This is a universal, unknowable issue we all wrestle with, to varying degrees - can we actually control our actions and shape who we are or are we helpless, the burden of heredity carried from the womb determining our lives and our fate. Will we for better or worse, become our mother or our father. An equally powerful unknown, also an integral part of the book and life, is whether loving, strong relationships have the power to save us from ourselves.

The writing here is first-rate: edgy, lyrical, suspenseful, insightful, the author always keeping the reader close to Evelyn. She is that rare character – appealing and unnerving all at once – and we turn the page with both urgency and foreboding. I think that The Bottom of the Deep Blue Sea is perfect for fans of such writers as Megan Abbot and Megan Miranda and hope you will agree.

Karen Dietrich is the author of *The Girl Factory: A Memoir*, based on her coming of age in a small manufacturing town outside of Pittsburgh and published to critical acclaim by Globe Pequot in 2013.

Contact: Marc Koralnik



Pascale Dietrich
LES MAFIEUSES

Client: Editions Liana Levi
Publisher: Liana Levi
February 2019
156 pp.

Between the thriller and humor, an unexpected novel in which women rub the Grenoble underworld up wrong way and pull strings behind the scenes

Forty-five years ago, Michèle married Léon Acampora, a boss of the Grenoble mafia, with whom she has two daughters who come to terms with their rather unusual background as best they can. Dina, in a spirit of rebellion, opts to go into humanitarian work.

But the sector is not exempt from cynicism and bureaucracy, and Dina is disappointed. As for Alessia, she has no such qualms. In the pharmacy she manages, «homeopathy» is the code word for «cocaine» and «national health card» means «your life is in danger».

While the mobsters of her father's generation play poker at the retirement home, Alessia is full of ideas for modernizing the business. And so life goes on for the Acampora women, between shotgun blasts and yoga lessons... until the day Léon falls into a coma. For, before dying, he decided to settle old scores and has put a contract out on his wife... So Michèle, Dina, and Alessia set out on a race against the clock with the unknown hitman, hoping for the end of an era in which men lay down the law to them. Ironic, feminist, deliciously surprising.

Pascale Dietrich was born in Tours, France, in 1980. A sociologist at Paris' National Institute for Demographic Research (INED), her writings deal with inequalities in the housing and living conditions of the most disadvantaged. In the literary sphere, she is a shorty-story writer and the author of short novels that flirt with the thriller, such as *Le Homard*, In8 Publishing, 2013, and *Une île bien tranquille*, Liana Levi, 2016.

Contact: Marc Koralnik



Christophe Ferré
THE LITTLE GIRL BY THE LIGHTHOUSE

Client: L'Archipel
Publisher: L'Archipel
October 2018
440 pp.

In the spirit of Guillaume Musso and Michel Bussi, a family thriller which leaves the reader on edge

Ploumenac'h, Brittany. Because they wanted to spend some time together in a bar near home, Morgane and Elouan entrusted their baby, Gaela, to her teen brother.

When they come back, the cradle is empty. No sign of breaking in, no ransom demand. There are many leads... but the investigation gets nowhere.

One month later, Gaela is given back to her parents. Relief prevails over disbelief. Except for Arthur, who is convinced that this is not his sister...

Christophe Ferré's books were published by France Loisir. He was awarded the Short Story Prize of Académie Française in 2010. His previous thrillers, *La Révélation de Chartres* (Salvator, 2015), sold 10.000 copies.

"Who did kidnap that child? How? Is Gaela still alive? A breathless thriller that leads us, with a powerful and lyric style, at the heart of mists and ocean sprays." SALON LITTÉRAIRE

Contact: Marc Koralnik



Mai Jia
THE MESSAGE

Client: THE GRAYHAWK AGENCY
Publisher: ThinKingdom, 2016

UK Deal
Thriller, Espionage

Major film adaptation directed by Chen Kuofu and Gao Qunshu
Winner of the Chinese Media Literary Award & People's Literature Magazine Award

Over one million copies sold in China

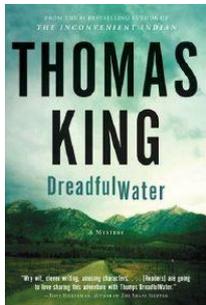
First published in 2007, THE MESSAGE has sold over a million copies in China and made into a major film by internationally renowned Taiwanese director, Chen Kuofu. The movie, released in 2009, became a huge hit at the box office, and is generally regarded as the first large scale, Hollywood-level production Chinese spy thriller.

China, 1941. While war rages on in Europe, Japan has established itself as the supreme power in Asia. Hangzhou, known for its beautiful scenery, has become a stronghold of the Japanese puppet government. One day, five officers from the code breaking department are escorted to a secret mansion outside the city. Their mission: find out who is the communist spy among them. As each struggles to prove his/her innocence, the Japanese commander throws out a fake message hoping to lure out the underground rebels. Will the mole – codenamed "Ghost" – be able to send the warning out to his/her comrades, before time runs out?

THE MESSAGE is Mai Jia's most gripping novel to date, a brilliant deconstruction of the classic locked-room mystery. Using a Rashomon-style narrative, he sets out to reveal the identity of "Ghost", then completely overturns the solution, all the while blending facts and fiction, personal observations and historical document. A compact and twisty historical thriller and a most satisfying page-turner.

Mai Jia (b.1964) is arguably the most successful writer in China today. He is hailed as the forerunner of Chinese espionage fiction and has published seven novels, with five million copies sold in total, each of which has been turned into TV and films. He is winner of Mao Dun Literary Award, the most prestigious prize in China. *Dedcoded* has been translated into twenty languages.

Contact: Marc Koralnik



Thomas King (a.k.a. Hartley GoodWeather)
DREADFUL WATER

MYSTERY SERIES RELAUNCH (books 1-5)

Client: Westwood Creative Artists Ltd.
Publisher: Harper Collins Canada

Film rights for complete series sold: Prospero Pictures

Cherokee ex-cop Thumps DreadfulWater is trying to live a quiet life. Solving a murder isn't part of the plan. But Thumps knows that the police often shoot smart-ass Indians first, and ask questions later

Thumps is trying to squeeze his city sensibilities into a reservation struggling for economic independence. It's a good life – mostly. But when a body turns up in a glitzy new condo, things change. The main suspect is "Stick" Merchant, son of Claire Merchant, head of the tribal council and Thumps' onetime love. Can Thumps find Stick before the cops do? And can he find a killer before a killer finds him?

Thomas King is the award-winning Canadian author of five novels, two short story collections, and two nonfiction books, including *The Inconvenient Indian*, which has sold more than 100,000 copies in Canada.

Tobias Gohlis, DIE ZEIT, zu Band 1 (D: Unionsverlag 2005): „Der in Kanada hoch angesehene Autor Thomas King, selbst halber Indianer, hat in seinem ersten Kriminalroman nicht nur der Figur des Privatdetektivs wider Willen eine eigenwillige reizvolle Variante hinzugefügt. Das Bild, das er vom indianischen Alltag zeichnet, ist nicht mehr, wie bei Tony Hillerman, vom Konflikt zwischen Traditionalismus und zerstörerischer Moderne geprägt. Seine ›native people‹ spielen lustvoll Cowboy und Indianer und nutzen die Vorurteile der White Anglo-Saxon Protestants geschickt zu ihrer Tarnung. Schließlich geht es um sehr viel Geld.“

Contact: Hannah Fosh



Nicole Lundrigan
HIDEAWAY

Client: Westwood Creative Artists Ltd.
Publisher: Penguin Canada
Summer 2019

What if you were hidden, and no one came to look for you?

In the quiet suburb of Little Sliding in 1974, Gloria Janes appears to be a doting mother and loving wife, living in a neat little house at the bottom of Pinchkiss Circle. But beyond the canary-yellow door, Gloria is a different person. She controls her husband Telly and their two children through constant manipulation and a threatening cycle of adoration and banishment.

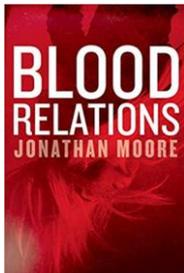
Then Telly leaves, abandoning seven-year-old Maisy and thirteen-year-old Rowan to Gloria's abuse. To avoid being used as a pawn in his mother's obsessive attempts at reuniting their family, Rowan runs away and turns to an unlikely source for comfort – a homeless man named Carl. Rowan finds comfort and belonging in their unusual bond and, ignoring his creeping awareness of Carl's paranoia, follows him to an isolated cottage.

Gloria sees her son's disappearance – and resulting media frenzy to find him – as the perfect lure to bring Telly back home. So, when Rowan shows up, battered but alive, he throws a wrench in Gloria's scheme, and she hurriedly locks him in the basement to keep him out of sight. But then the police find Carl, whose clothes are stained with blood, and he confesses that he and Rowan had an altercation on a boat, and after Rowan was struck with an oar, he fell overboard and drowned. If Gloria reveals the truth, she'll lose any chance of reuniting with her estranged husband. But can she maintain the façade of the grieving mother when Maisy starts hearing noises she can't explain?

Stephen King's *Misery* meets Emma Donoghue's *Room* in a suspenseful novel about evil in our midst. With masterful storytelling and an unlikely hero, *HIDEAWAY* explores the failure of justice and discovery of unexpected strength.

Nicole Lundrigan is the author of five critically acclaimed novels, including *Glass Boys* and *The Substitute*. Her work has appeared in best of the year selections by The Globe and Mail, Amazon.ca, and Now magazine. Born and raised in Newfoundland, she now lives in Toronto.

Contact: Hannah Fosh



Jonathan Moore
BLOOD RELATIONS

Client: The Martell Agency
Publisher: Houghton Mifflin
2019

Suspense, noir, first of a planned series

BLOOD RELATIONS introduces a great new character in **Lee Crowe**, a disbarred California attorney with anger management issues, now turned undercover private investigator extraordinaire for anyone on either side of the law willing to pay his price

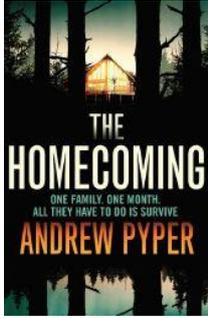
Equal parts fearless and relentless, Lee digs, taking surreptitious pictures, taping damning conversations, tracking his targets like a laser beam, finding that fatal hidden weak spot and soon enough, witness are changing their stories in court, drug kingpins are walking and rich pin-striped lawyers are cashing in. But the case of Claire Gravesend is quite unlike any job Lee has worked – a beautiful young blonde woman dropped from a seemingly great height to her death on a smashed luxury automobile. When her very wealthy and even more ruthless mother Olivia hires Lee to find out who killed Claire, Lee discovers a dark world of corruption and violence and greed for the unattainable where the blood ties run deep and red.

Jonathan Moore is the author of the acclaimed San Francisco noir trilogy, comprising *THE POISON ARTIST*, *THE DARK ROOM* and *THE NIGHT MARKET*, all published by HMH in the US and by Orion in the UK.

"Patient, stylish and incredibly suspenseful." Lee Child

"Like Raymond Chandler and Philip K. Dick sat down with a typewriter and a case of bourbon and just went crazy." PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

Contact: Marc Koralnik



Andrew Pyper
THE HOMECOMING

Client: The Cooke Agency International Inc
Publisher: Simon & Schuster
February 2019
368 pp.

The #1 internationally bestselling author of *The Demonologist* returns with a riveting psychological thriller about how the people you've known your whole life can suddenly become strangers

What if everything you knew about the people you loved was a lie?

After the death of their absentee father, Aaron and Bridge Quinlan travel to a vast rainforest property in the Pacific Northwest to hear the reading of his will. There, they meet up with their mother and troubled sister, Franny, and are shocked to discover the will's terms: in order to claim their inheritance they must all remain at the estate for thirty days without any contact with the outside world. Despite their concerns, they agree.

The Quinlans soon come to learn their family has more secrets than they ever imagined—revelations that at first inspire curiosity, then fear. Why does Bridge have faint memories of the estate? Why did their father want them to be sequestered there together?

And what is out there they feel pulling them into the dark heart of the woods?

THE HOMECOMING is at once a gripping mystery, a chilling exploration of how our memories can both define and betray us, and a riveting page-turner that will have you questioning your very existence.

Andrew Pyper was born in Stratford, Ontario, in 1968. He received a B.A. and M.A. in English Literature from McGill University, as well as a law degree from the University of Toronto. Although called to the bar in 1996, he has never practiced. Andrew's creative writing teaching experience includes terms at Trent University, the University of Toronto, and currently, Colorado college. Last year he won the Grant Allen Award for contributions to Canadian crime and mystery literature. He lives in Toronto.

"Pyper's gift is that he deeply respects his readers, yet still insists on reducing them to quivering children. I like that in a writer." Gillian Flynn

Contact: Hannah Fosh

Ausgewählte deutschsprachige Projekte



Michel Bergmann
DER RABBI UND DER KOMMISSAR
Du sollst nicht morden

Feel-good-Krimireihe
246 S.

Ein humorvoller, geistreicher und rasant erzählter feel-good Krimi

Die wohlhabende Frau Axelrath, möge sie in Frieden ruhen, ist keines natürlichen Todes gestorben. Davon ist der Rabbi überzeugt, als einziger allerdings. Keiner glaubt ihm, nicht der Kommissar und nicht sein Kumpel Doktor Perlmann. Der Rabbiner will beweisen, dass Frau Axelrath ermordet wurde, also muss er einen Mörder finden, während er sich gleichzeitig um seine schwierige Mutter und einen verwaisten Hund zu kümmern hat. Er soll einen hartnäckigen deutschen Beamten von der Wahrheit überzeugen, eine junge Frau davon abhalten, ihn zu heiraten, einer anderen seine Liebe beweisen. Darüber hinaus kann es sich der Rabbi nicht leisten, seine nervigen Schüler, die Sozialarbeit und die Gemeinde zu ignorieren, da der stets schlecht gelaunte Gemeindedirektor Friedländer nichts lieber täte, als ihn zu feuern.

Michel Bergmann wurde 1945 als Kind jüdischer Eltern in einem Internierungslager in der Schweiz geboren. Nach einigen Jahren in Paris ziehen die Eltern nach Frankfurt am Main. Bergmann absolvierte eine Ausbildung bei der Frankfurter Rundschau, wird freier Journalist, später Autor, Regisseur und Produzent; er verfasst Drehbücher für Film und Fernsehen. Seine *Teilacher* Roman-Trilogie (Arche/dtv) und sein Drehbuch dazu wurde 2017 als "Es war einmal in Deutschland" verfilmt und lief erfolgreich in den in- und ausländischen Kinos.

Contact: Marc Koralnik

Sigrid Goddard
TOTE RUFEN NICHT ZURÜCK (AT)

Romantische Komödie

„Da stellst du dich tot, damit sich keine Frau bei dir meldet, und jetzt meldet sich eine bei dir, gerade weil du tot bist.“

Single Nick, 36, hat genug von Frauen. Bloß keine Beziehung mehr. Und damit die One-Night-Stands auch totsicher kein Nachspiel haben, macht er bei der Masche seiner Kumpels mit. Gegenseitig rufen sie die Frauen an und teilen ihnen mit, dass sie gestorben sind. Genial. Nick hat seine Ruhe und keine kann ihn mehr davon abbringen, dass aus seinem erfolgreichen Foodtruck endlich ein Restaurant wird. Tote lässt man schließlich in Frieden. Normalerweise.

Für Single und stolze Milchbar-Besitzerin Nini, 32, ist es schlimm: Nick, ihr absoluter Traummann, plötzlich tot. Soviel zu ihrem Glück mit Männern! Doch im Nachhinein ist es vielleicht auch ganz praktisch. Denn, wenn man für Facebook zu privat ist, kann man sein Leben ja mit jemandem im Jenseits teilen. Ohne zu ahnen, dass sich der mehr und mehr dafür interessiert... Aber wie kann ein Toter ihr sagen, dass er sie liebt?

Sigrid Goddard, Autorin und Journalistin, ist in Wien geboren und lebt heute in London. Nach ihrem erfolgreichen Debütroman „Verlass ihn“ (Ullstein, 2005) begann Sigrid Goddard mit dem Bloggen. www.alleswasunmännlichist.de hat bei leidgeprüften Frauen, Männern und Memmen gleichermaßen Kultstatus erlangt. Daraus entstand „Die Männer, die wir lieben, und die Luschen, die wir kriegen: Alles, was unmännlich ist“ (Piper 2012).

Contact: Marc Koralnik

Katharina Kramer
DIE HIMMLISCHE SPRACHE (AT)

Historisches Romandebüt
450 S.

Europa, spätes 16. Jahrhundert. Katharina Kramer nimmt uns mit in die Lebenswelt der zwei ungewöhnlich begabten, sympathischen Hauptfiguren Margarète Labé und Jacob Greve. Beide stammen aus einfachen Verhältnissen, müssen sich ihren Platz in der Gesellschaft erkämpfen: Margarète, eine Tischlertochter aus Bordeaux, hat es dank ihrem Sprachtalent und ihrer praktischen Intelligenz gegen alle Widerstände geschafft, sich in der von Männern dominierten katholischen Liga durchzusetzen und wird dort als Spionin eingesetzt – und schließlich auf Jacob angesetzt.

Jacob unterrichtet an einer sächsischen Schule für Knaben, wo er als polyglotter Sonderling gilt. Er leidet unter Hörattacken, die seine angeborene Synästhesie verstärken, und die ihn letztlich seine Anstellung kosten. Vertrieben von dem Ort, an dem er fast sein ganzes Leben verbracht hat, gerät er vollkommen unvorbereitet in die Wirren der Politik und muss erst einmal lernen, Freund von Feind zu unterscheiden. Als sich seine Wege mit denen von Margarète kreuzen, wird es erst recht kompliziert...

Kramers liebevoller Umgang mit ihren Figuren – auch Jacobs eigenwilliger Weggefährte Edward und der Gelehrte und Hofastronom John Dee wachsen einem schnell ans Herz – gepaart mit den lebendigen Schilderungen und den spannenden Wendungen rund um Liebe und Macht, Geheimsprachen, Rätsel und Codes machen diesen Roman zu einer lohnenden und höchst unterhaltsamen Lektüre.

Katharina Kramer, 1965 in Hamburg geboren, ist Gymnasiallehrerin für Englisch und Französisch und wohnt in Mainz. Ihr Studium von Englisch, Französisch, Journalistik und Pädagogik hat sie in Hamburg, Durham/England und an der Sorbonne in Paris absolviert. Nebst Übersetzungen von einer Biographie (Aufbau) und einer Geschichte des mittelalterlichen Kathedralenbaus hat sie diverse journalistische Artikel veröffentlicht, u.a. für Süddeutsche Zeitung, SPIEGEL, ZEIT, FAZ, NZZ am Sonntag, GEO, mare und P.M. History.

Contact: Hannah Fosh



Nils Langhans
DER GROßE DARI (AT)

Debütroman
173 S.

Es hätte *der* Sommer werden sollen. Ein Sommer, in dem sich der Protagonist einzig um den Sonnenbrand auf Daris Nasenspitze zu sorgen hat. Doch Dari ist tot. Unwiederbringlich tot. Seit drei Monaten wabert der Protagonist in einem Kokon aus Narkotika und Verlustschmerz durch Zürich, eine Irrfahrt im Zorbing-Ball. Schließlich macht er sich auf den Weg nach Italien, immer Richtung Süden, dorthin, wo er den Sommer doch gemeinsam mit Dari verbringen wollte, auf in ein Land mit Übertemperatur, politisch zerrissen und gebeutelt von den Ausläufern der Weltwirtschaftskrise.

Der Protagonist pflügt durch die absurden Auswüchse Mailands und Turins, er verzweifelt an der kaum aushaltbaren Schönheit der Cinque Terre, er sucht Beständigkeit in der bäuerlichen Einfachheit Procidas – alles vergebens.

Der Plot führt den Protagonisten weiter gen Süden, unweigerlich nach Lampedusa, hin zu dem Ort, der für Abertausende Bürgerkriegsopfer die letzte Rettung verspricht. Konfrontiert mit unmittelbarem Leid, mit menschlichem Mut und echter Nähe, beginnt der Protagonist allmählich zu erwachen, beginnen seine Wunden zwar nicht zu heilen, doch zu vernarben.

Nils Langhans wurde 1990 in Velbert geboren und lebt in Berlin. Seine Kurzgeschichten wurden unter anderem in den Literaturzeitschriften Mosaik und Das Narr veröffentlicht, sein Text »Rione Monti« erschien auf 54Stories. Aktuell arbeitet er an seinem ersten Roman. Nils Langhans hat Politik- und Kommunikationswissenschaften in Münster, Berlin und Aix-en-Provence studiert. Er ist Alumnus der Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes und Mitglied bei Mensa e.V.

Contact: Hannah Fosh



Amanda Lasker-Berlin
IVA ATMET (AT)

Literarisches Romandebüt
288 S.

Die junge Anästhesistin Iva kehrt nach Dresden zurück, um bei ihrem sterbenden Vater zu sein. Als sie die Tür zu ihrem Elternhaus öffnet, kann sie die Vergangenheit förmlich riechen. Ihre Kindheit, der unnahbare Vater, das seltsame Verhalten der Mutter und der Geschwister, die Großmutter, die als Kind aus Namibia fliehen musste und nie darüber hinweggekommen ist – all dies ist auf einmal wieder erdrückend präsent. Und Ivas Leben in Wuppertal, das sie sich aufgebaut hat, aus dem sie die Vergangenheit verbannt hat, scheint unversehens, als hätte sie es nur geträumt. Sie muss sich erst einmal damit beschäftigen, Sinn und Ordnung in ihre Erinnerungsfetzen und Träume, in die Fotos, Zeichnungen, Dokumente zu bringen, die sie im Elternhaus findet. Und sie hofft, dass Ismene ihr dabei hilft – eine heimatlose Jazzsängerin, die sie in einer Dresdner Bar trifft und bei sich aufnimmt.

Wie viel Vergangenheit muss Iva zulassen, um das Leben mit ihrem Mann Roy und ihrem kleinen Sohn Shlomo zurückzugewinnen? Wird dies überhaupt möglich sein? Als ihr verlorener Bruder Alexander auftaucht und schonungslos vergangene Vergehen ans Licht bringt, scheint es immer unwahrscheinlicher. Und doch ist es letztlich Alexander, der Iva den Weg in die Freiheit öffnet.

Amanda Lasker-Berlin wurde 1994 in Essen geboren und wuchs in Gladbeck auf. Seit dem siebten Lebensjahr verfasst sie literarische Texte und Theaterstücke. Im Alter von 18 Jahren inszenierte sie ihr erstes Theaterstück "Wolkenkratzer 1988" in Gladbeck. Sie war Stipendiatin der Kulturstiftung der Stadtsparkasse Gladbeck (2012-2015) und Teilnehmerin der Begabtenförderung der Wolfsburg/Mülheim a. d. Ruhr. 2015 erschien ihr Theaterstück "Das Kind, das keines mehr wurde" im Karl- Mahnke Theaterverlag. 2016 erhielt Lasker-Berlin den Jurypreis des Münchener Kurzgeschichten Wettbewerbs. Ihr Drama „Gelbe Wüste/Rosa Raum“ wurde mit dem Thop-Nachwuchsdramatiker*innenpreis 2017 ausgezeichnet. Außerdem war sie Finalistin des Hattinger Förderpreises für junge Literatur. Lasker-Berlin studiert Regie für Theater an der Akademie für Darstellende Kunst Baden-Württemberg.

Contact: Hannah Fosh



Dirk Laucke
TOTE SEELEN

Roman
300 S.

Fargo im ostdeutschen Hinterland

Was soll's, wir sind nicht hier, damit wir uns erzählen, wie die Scheiße aussieht, in der ich stecke, sondern damit du mir endlich deinen Bonbon da raus ziehst."

"Bonbon?"

"Am Telefon klang es, als hättest du den."

"Hab ich. Den hab ich."

"Dann her damit!"

Ein abgebrannter Unternehmer versucht mit einer verrückten Idee zu schnellem Geld zu kommen: Er ist zufällig an die Papiere toter Flüchtlinge geraten und will sie einem befreundeten Bürgermeister einer Kleinstadt verhökern, der angesichts massiver rechter Proteste um seine Wiederwahl bangt. Mit den Dokumenten könnte der Lokalpolitiker beim Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge die angeordnete Unterbringung von einhundert Geflüchteten in einer Turnhalle vortäuschen – und gleichzeitig den empörten Wählern glaubhaft machen, dass bei ihm gar keine Fremden kommen. In seiner Stadt wird sich gar nichts ändern, so lange er im Amt bleibt! Die beiden haben einen Deal. Doch ein Ex-Junkie, der neu anfangen möchte, durchkreuzt ihre Pläne und zwingt sie zu einem wahnwitzigen Parcours durch die eigenen Lügen im deutschen Hinterland ... Eine schwarz-humorige Geschichte voller Spannung, in der jeder eigentlich nur verlieren kann.

Dirk Laucke schreckt nicht vor aktuellen gesellschaftspolitischen Themen zurück – im Gegenteil: seit über zehn Jahren setzt er sich in zahlreichen Theaterstücken und Hörspielen mit Migration, Rassismus und rechten Tendenzen in der deutschen Gesellschaft auseinander. TOTE SEELEN verweist nicht zufällig auf Nikolai Gogols gleichnamigen Roman, dem Laucke hier eine respektvolle Referenz erweist. Er verbeugt sich vor einer Tradition, die Ernst und Humor vereint und Kritik an gesellschaftlichen Verhältnissen ohne moralinsaure Pamphlete anbringt – und genau das gelingt ihm mit diesem „Fargo im ostdeutschen Hinterland“ auf sehr eindrückliche und rockige Weise.

Dirk Laucke, geboren 1982, aufgewachsen in Halle (Saale), studierte Psychologie in Leipzig und Szenisches Schreiben an der Universität der Künste in Berlin. 2004 wurde er als Nachwuchsautor zu den Salzburger Festspielen eingeladen. Er erhielt u. a. den Kleist-Förderpreis (2006) und Dramatikerpreis des Kulturkreises der Deutschen Wirtschaft (2010). 2007, 2010 und 2015 war er für den Mülheimer Dramatikerpreis nominiert. Sein Romandebüt *Mit sozialistischem Grusz* ist 2015 bei rororo erschienen. Zahlreiche Hörspiele, darunter »alter ford escort dunkelblau« (MDR 2008), das 2009 bei den Zonser Hörspieltagen als bestes regionales Hörspiel ausgezeichnet wurde. SWR2 produzierte 2016 sein Hörspiel »Karnickel«.

Contact: Marc Koralnik



Eva Rottmann
MATS UND MILAD

Jugendbuch
207 S.

Ein herrlich unterhaltsamer Erstling mit viel Humor und einem sensiblen Blick für die Sorgen, Zweifel, aber auch für die Höhenflüge, die das Teenagersein so mit sich bringt

Mats (eigentlich Mathilda) ist eine der coolsten 15-jährigen, die wir seit langem kennengelernt haben. Auch wenn die Jungs und Mädels in ihrer neuen Schule – Mats und ihre Mutter sind vor kurzem aus Berlin in ein Kaff gezogen, um näher bei Omi zu sein – das nicht sofort merken. Ein peinlicher Zwischenfall genügt und schon ist Mats die doofe neue, der man Milch in den Sportbeutel kippt. Eigentlich zum Glück, denn sonst hätte sie wohl nie Milad kennengelernt. Milad, der aus Syrien geflüchtet ist, und den Mats in einem Moment blinden Mutes von den Bahngleisen rettet. Mats findet in Milad einen guten Freund – vielleicht auch mehr als das, aber die Sache ist natürlich kompliziert. Erst recht, wenn man nicht die gleiche Sprache spricht ...

Eva Rottmann wuchs in Wertheim am Main auf. 2004 begann sie ihr Studium an der Zürcher Hochschule der Künste am Departement Darstellende Künste und Film. Nebenher entwickelte sie zahlreiche Theaterprojekte, vor allem mit Jugendlichen. Ihr erstes Theaterstück *Eidechsen und Salamander* wurde mit dem Kathrin-Türks-Preis und dem deutsch-niederländischen Jugenddramatikerpreis "Kaas und Kappes" ausgezeichnet. Ihr Stück *Skills* gewann 2009 den Publikumspreis des Stück-Labor Basel und 2012 den Jugendtheaterpreis Baden-Württemberg. Es folgten weitere Stückaufträge (u.a. Schauspielhaus Zürich, Theater Konstanz), Hörspiele (SRF) und eigene Projektarbeiten. Mit *Unter jedem Dach* wurde sie 2010 zum Heidelberger Stückemarkt eingeladen und gewann dort ebenfalls den Publikumspreis. Ihr Stück *Die mich jagen* war 2012 für den Deutschen Jugendtheaterpreis nominiert. Im Sommer 2015 erschien ihr erstes Kinderbuch mit dem Titel *Goldkind* im Verlag mixtvision. Für ihren Coming-of-age-Roman MATS UND MILAD erhielt sie 2016 einen Werkbeitrag der Literaturkommission Basel Stadt.

Contact: Hannah Fosh



Ulrike Ulrich
WÄHREND WIR FEIERN (AT)

Roman
192 S.

Zürich, 1. August, Schweizer Nationalfeiertag: Alexa Albrecht, eine deutsche Sängerin Mitte 40, die seit dreizehn Jahren in Zürich lebt, bereitet ihr alljährliches Dachterassenfest vor. Kamal, in Tunesien wegen seiner Homosexualität verfolgt, irrt verzweifelt durch die Stadt, die Angst vor der Abschiebung allzu konkret nachdem sein Asylantrag in letzter Instanz abgelehnt wurde.

Ulrike Ulrich verwebt den Tagesablauf dieser zwei Hauptfiguren und ihrer so unterschiedlichen Lebenswelten mit dem ihrer Freunde und Bekannten. Dabei schlüpft sie immer wieder in die Köpfe des jeweiligen Gegenübers – die Zwischentöne solcher Begegnungen in wenigen Worten zu skizzieren ist eine ihrer Stärken – und führt uns im getriebenen Rhythmus dieses Sommertags an verschiedene Schauplätze Zürichs.

Anlässlich Ulrichs Debütromans *fern bleiben* sagte Ilma Rakusa: **"Ulrike Ulrich ist eine wache Beobachterin unserer Zeit, der sie in einer präzisen Sprache Komik und Poesie abzugewinnen weiß."**

Diese literarischen Fähigkeiten stellt Ulrich in ihrem aktuellen Roman WÄHREND WIR FEIERN einmal mehr unter Beweis, schlägt dabei aber eine neue Richtung ein: Ihr feinsinniger Stil verknüpft mit einer klugen Geschichte liefert Unterhaltung im besten Sinne und erinnert nicht zufällig an Virginia Woolf's *Mrs. Dalloway* – originell weitergedacht im heutigen Zürich.

Ulrike Ulrich, geboren 1968 in Düsseldorf, lebt seit 2004 als Schriftstellerin in Zürich. 2010 erschien im Luftschacht Verlag Wien ihr Debütroman *fern bleiben*, dem 2013 der zweite Roman *Hinter den Augen* folgte. 2015 erschien ebendort ihr erster Erzählband *Draussen um diese Zeit*. Zusammen mit Svenja Herrmann hat sie eine Anthologie von literarischen Texten zum 60. Geburtstag der Menschenrechte herausgegeben. Ulrike Ulrich gehört der Zürcher Literaturgruppe index an, dem AdS und dem Schweizer PEN und engagiert sich beim Kunstprojekt Literatur für das was passiert. Ihre Texte wurden mehrfach ausgezeichnet, u. a. mit dem Walter Serner-Preis 2010, dem Lilly-Ronchetti-Preis 2011 und Anerkennungspreise der Stadt Zürich für ihre beiden Romane. 2016 erhielt Ulrike Ulrich einen Werkbeitrag der Pro Helvetia für ihr aktuelles Romanprojekt.

Contact: Hannah Fosh