

LIEPMAN AG

Literary Agency

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LBF 2019: FICTION, selected new titles ***(Literary / Upmarket – Commercial – Suspense)***

Literary / Upmarket

Anar Ali
NIGHT OF POWER

Client: The Cooke Agency International Inc
Publisher: Penguin Canada
August 2019
194 pp.

A compassionate, utterly absorbing upmarket book club novel for readers of *A Place for Us* by Fatima Farheen Mirza and Shilpi Somaya Gowda (*Secret Daughter*, *The Golden Son*), *NIGHT OF POWER* examines the emotional burdens and generational trauma of refugees, in a much-needed perspective on what is lost – and gained – when we try to recreate home

An heir to a once successful business empire fallen from grace, Mansoor Visram and his young family are forced to flee their home after Uganda begins a crackdown on its South Asian population – years later, in 1998, his son Ashif is a rising star in a multinational firm, having spent years distancing himself from his overbearing father and working to provide a comfortable simple life for his mother Layla – all the while, Mansoor continues to work on his dreams of raising the Visrams back into their old position of prominence.

Anar Ali's first book, *Baby Khaki's Wings*, was a finalist for the Commonwealth Writers' Prize (Best First Book), Ontario's Trillium Book Award, and the Danuta Gleed Literary Award. Anar is a recent graduate of Norman Jewison's Canadian Film Centre where she completed her first feature film and two short films. She also has a 1-hour TV family drama series in development with the CBC. Anar currently splits her time between Toronto and Mexico.

"*NIGHT OF POWER* will find broad appeal among many different sorts of readers through its elegant writing, complex but propulsive narrative, and strongly cinematic qualities." – David Chariandy, internationally acclaimed and award-winning author of *Brother*

Contact: Hannah Fosh



Sharon Chung
REGRETS

Client: THE GRAYHAWK AGENCY
Publisher: ThinKingdom
2018
432 pp.

Twenty-five years in the making, *REGRETS* is Sharon Chung's literary masterpiece and a once-in-a-lifetime publishing event. This is *Downton Abbey* meets *Match Point* in pre-handover Hong Kong, both a haunting family saga and a dark retelling of the classic Chinese novel *A Dream of Red Mansions*

When Yati-Ping visits his aunt, Chun, at the Wong Mansion on Victoria Peak, he has no idea he is about to enter a world of passion, intrigue, and madness. Chun is Mr. Wong's second wife, a frail and sickly woman who cannot set foot outside. She beseeches Yati-Ping to look after her willful daughter, Po-Chuen, by becoming her private tutor. A bond develops between the cousins, yet Mr. Wong deems it inappropriate and fires Yati-Ping, unexpectedly triggering a string of tragic events.

Although forced to leave, Yati-Ping remains inseparable from the Wongs' affairs. In the years that follow, he is befriended by Cheng-Yiu, Mr. Wong's adopted son and designated heir, who is a shrewd and cold-blooded manipulator; he falls in love with Kam-Chuen, daughter of Mr Wong and his first wife, only to discover that she's pregnant with someone else's child; he is beaten up by Ching Hon, the family driver and son of the housekeeper, who sees him as a threat; he is seduced by Wang-Tai, the sexy Portuguese heiress about to marry Cheng-Yiu; and he is equally confused and enamored by Po-Chuen, now a beautiful young woman, who still recalls his tutor sessions with fondness.

Soon, a death in the swimming pool will threaten to shatter the whole family, and a kidnapping plot gone awry will reveal something far more sinister...

It was widely reviewed in Taiwan and Hong Kong, and Chang Ta-Chun, who is himself one of the most important novelist in Taiwan, proclaims that REGRETS is "The best Chinese-language novel I've read in the past ten years."

Sharon Chung published her first novel, *A Pinwheel Without Wind* when she was 18, and it became an overnight sensation in Taiwan, selling hundreds of thousands of copies. Sharon got her BA in Film Studies in University of Michigan in the US, immigrated to Australia with her parents, where she wrote her second novel, *Silent Truths*. She later returned to Hong Kong. Sharon spent the past five years completely rewriting *Silent Truths*, keeping the basic storyline and characters, but enriching the narrative with so much details of the time (pre-handover Hong Kong), also making the story, which had already been filled with twists and turns, even more surprising and satisfying.

Contact: Marc Korolnik

Joseph Kertes
LAST IMPRESSIONS

Client: The Cooke Agency International Inc
Publisher: Viking Canada
March 2020
276 pp.

From the award-winning author of *Gratitude* and *The Afterlife of Stars*, LAST IMPRESSIONS is a masterful novel: elegant, humane, and deeply affecting

When Ben Beck, happily married Toronto university professor and father of two well-launched daughters, realizes he has only so much time left with his volatile, enigmatic widower father Zoltan, he sets out to discover the truth about a few mysteries that he has never been quite sure he wanted to investigate. There is a brief letter from Hungary containing a lock of hair, signed only with initials, kept by Zoltan who otherwise threw away or destroyed everything from the past, especially from his past in Hungary before he came to Canada in the 1950s. There is the fact that Zoltan had a brother, Bela, the golden boy of 1930s Budapest, athletic, talented, and intellectual, whose fate has never been shared with the next generations of the Beck family. And finally there is a tiny handmade notebook filled with minuscule writing, some of it poetry dedicated to a woman named Zsofia.

Ben's quest to better understand his larger-than-life father, a man both intensely present and impenetrably distant, and sometimes unfathomably selfish, is warmly funny and life-affirming even as it explores the inevitable loss that love entails. In the course of this present story, we learn, as Ben does, how two accomplished sons of a Jewish professional family in 1930s Budapest were interned in a labour camp where death from overwork, abuse, and disease was all around, and how they escaped in the chaos of the Russian invasion of the winter of 1944-45. We learn why Zoltan was the only one of the brothers to reunite with his parents, and ultimately escape Communist Hungary to bring his young family to Canada. And we learn the truth of that tragic loss even as we experience with Ben and Zoltan a joyous and healing revelation of enduring love and vibrant life.

Joseph Kertes was born in Hungary but escaped with his family to Canada after the revolution of 1956. His first novel, *Winter Tulips*, won the Stephen Leacock Award for Humour. His third novel, *Gratitude*, won a Canadian Jewish Book Award and the U.S. National Jewish Book Award for Fiction, and his fourth, *The Afterlife of Stars*, garnered extraordinary critical acclaim. Kertes founded Humber College's distinguished creative writing and comedy programs, and is well known and beloved within the Canadian literary community, many of whose members have benefitted from his support over the years.

Contact: Hannah Fosh



Karen McBride
CROW WINTER

Client: Transatlantic Literary Agency Inc.
Publisher: HarperCollins Canada
Fall 2019
288 pp.

An important new voice in Indigenous literature, for readers of Eden Robinson

Nanabush. A name that has a certain weight on the tongue – a taste. Like lit sage in a windowless room or aluminum foil on a metal filling. Trickster. Storyteller. Shapeshifter. An ancient troublemaker with the power to do great things only he doesn't want to put in the work.

Since coming home to Spirit Bear Point First Nation, Hazel Ellis has been dreaming of an old crow. He tells her he's here to help her, save her. From what, exactly? Sure, her dad's been dead for almost two years and she hasn't quite reconciled that grief, but is that worth the time of an Algonquin demigod?

Soon Hazel learns that there's more at play than just her own sadness and doubt. The quarry that's been lying unsullied for over a century on her father's property is stirring the old magic that crosses the boundaries between this world and the next. With the aid of Nanabush, Hazel must unravel a web of deceit that, if left untouched, could destroy her family and her home on both sides of the Medicine Wheel.

Karen McBride is an Algonquin Anishnaabe writer from the Timiskaming First Nation in the territory that is now Quebec. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music and English, as well as a Bachelor of Education from the University of Ottawa. Most recently, Karen graduated with a Master of Arts in the Field of Creative Writing from the University of Toronto. *CROW WINTER* is her first novel.

Contact: Hannah Fosh

Micah Nemerever
THESE VIOLENT DELIGHTS

Client: Frances Goldin Literary Agency
Publisher: HarperCollins US
Summer 2020
376 pp.

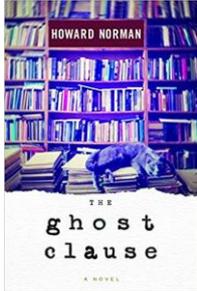
Feverish, tensely plotted, and surprisingly tender towards its characters, THESE VIOLENT DELIGHTS is a novel of escalating dread and an excavation of the unsettling depths of human desire. This is a queered narrative of obsessive intimacy curdled to the unspeakable in the vein of *Social Creatures* or *Eileen*, an emotionally expansive reimagining of a Leopold and Loeb-type story in the model of *The Girls*, and a book deeply influenced by the work of Patricia Highsmith and Donna Tartt.

It's the early 1970s in Pittsburgh, and Stonewall might as well have happened on the other side of the world. So when Paul and Julian meet in their first year of university, it's hard to explain the intensity of their connection to anyone around them. Paul is sensitive and agonizingly insecure, incomprehensible to his working class family, and desolate with rage and grief over his father's recent suicide. Julian is volatile, magnetic, capriciously cruel, and eager to escape the suffocating influence of his wealthy DC-based parents. Paul sees Julian as his sole ally and intellectual equal, a vision of what it might mean to live with ease and confidence – but that admiration isn't the same as trusting him.

As their friendship spirals into an identity-consuming romance, Paul is desperate to protect their precarious bond, even as it becomes clear that the pressure from the outside world is nothing compared to the brutalities they're capable of inflicting on each other. Losing each other is out of the question, but when their tightening orbit brings them to an act of irrevocable violence, both Paul and Julian will be forced to confront a shattering truth at the heart of their relationship.

Micah Nemerever studied art history and queer theory at the University of Connecticut, where he wrote his MA thesis on gender anxiety in the art of the Weimar Republic. He is a prolific home chef and an avid amateur historian of queer cinema. He lives in the Pacific Northwest.

Contact: Hannah Fosh



Howard Norman
THE GHOST CLAUSE

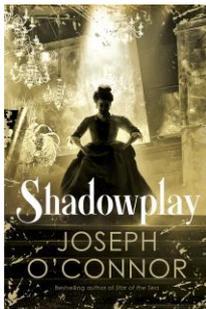
Client: Melanie Jackson Agency LLC
Publisher: Houghton Mifflin
July 2019
256 pp.

National Book Award Finalist Howard Norman delivers another “provocative . . . haunting” (Janet Maslin, New York Times) novel, this time set in a Vermont village and featuring a missing child, a newly married private detective, and a highly relatable ghost

A heartrending, affirming portrait of two marriages – one new, and one in its afterlife – National Book Award finalist Howard Norman’s latest novel, set in a small Vermont village, follows a man who suddenly dies but whose spirit remains in the farmhouse he’d share with his wife of many years, though now sold to a newlywed couple. While the ghost observes the comings and goings of the new homeowners, he reflects on his own marriage and previous life in the house as well, until a crisis arrives when a local eleven year-old child goes missing, threatening to undo any domestic equilibrium for the house and the community.

Howard Norman is a three-time winner of National Endowment for the Arts fellowships, and a winner of the Lannan Award for fiction. His novels *The Northern Lights* and *The Bird Artist* were both nominated for a National Book Award. He is also author of *My Darling Detective*, *The Museum Guard*, *The Haunting of L*, *What is Left the Daughter*, *I Hate to Leave this Beautiful Place*, and *Next Life Might Be Kinder*.

Contact: Marc Koralnik



Joseph O'Connor
SHADOWPLAY

Sunday Times *Literary Highlight* of 2019
Irish Times *Book to Look Forward to* in 2019

Client: Blake Friedmann Literary, TV and Film Agency Ltd
Publisher: Harvill Secker (in a two-book deal), June 2019
320 pp.
Guanda (in a two-book deal), ITALY
Natur och Kultur (in a two-book deal), SWEDEN
Helikon, HUNGARY
Editions Rivages, FRANCE

SHADOWPLAY is a drama about the captivating relationships that inspired Dracula, but it's also a tale about writing itself, full of resonances for our own era: a story of celebrity, secret desires and unspoken fantasies, the birth of a classic book and the moving human story that haunts its shadows

December, 1878. A minor Civil Servant emigrates to London from his sleepy hometown of Dublin to become the assistant of his idol, the first superstar actor, Henry Irving. A domineering, impetuous personality of volcanic charisma and mesmerizing talent, Irving is putting together a team of associates for a recklessly daring project: to open his own London theatre.

No actor has ever managed to do this before. The costs are ruinous, acting is not considered respectable; nobody would dream of lending investment money to a mere actor. But the quest is to make the Lyceum the greatest playhouse in the world, with unparalleled standards of scenery, spectacle, costuming; that a visit to this palace of fantasy will be a mind-blowing experience for the audience. The insignificant sober-suited Dublin clerk can't believe his luck to be involved in such an endeavour. His name is Abraham (Bram) Stoker.

Ask most people to imagine the author of *Dracula* and they wouldn't describe this sober accountant who is about as far from being a 'Goth' as it's possible to get. But through his extraordinary experiences at the Lyceum and his tempestuous relationship with Irving and the bittersweet closeness he finds with the dazzling actress Ellen Terry, Stoker will be inspired to pen one of the most iconic supernatural tales of all time.

Bestselling author and winner of many literary awards, **Joseph O'Connor** is the inaugural Frank McCourt Chair in Creative Writing at the University of Limerick.

“There are few living writers who can take us back in time so assuredly, with such sensual density, through such gorgeous sentences. Joseph O'Connor is a wonder, and SHADOWPLAY is a triumph.” – Peter Carey

Contact: Hannah Fosh



Paola Pigani
DES ORTIES ET DES HOMMES

Client: Editions Liana Levi
Publisher: Liana Levi
March 2019
304 pp.

Rendered in superb writing with poetic melancholy, DES ORTIES ET DES HOMMES is the story of the daily life of a girl in the Charente countryside of the mid-70's. A life lived to the rhythm of farmwork, adventures in the forest, budding friendships, and the brutality of this environment. Without doubt the most personal of Paola Pigani's novels: a vibrant homage to childhood, to nature, to daydreams, to books, and to awakening adolescence

In the hamlet of Cellefrouin in the French Charente, little Pia intensely observes the labour of men, the beasts, the trees – the whole of life buzzing about her. Surrounded by her Italian immigrant grand parents, her livestock-farming parents, and a gaggle of boisterous siblings, she also observes the harshness of this land where one struggles to scrape a living, where farms are being deserted, where a man hangs himself in his shed, where a teenager kills his father. Soon, the walls of barns are covered with posters urging rural locals to “live and work in their own land,” a reminder of their compatriots fighting back in Larzac. A trip to Turin over the summer of 1976 finds Pia for the first time far from home. On her return, after a terrible drought, everything is unrecognisable. Something has died that will never return. Between the echo of chainsaws, the colourful language of the old folk, of the Roma, Turkish, and Polish labourers, and the words of the poets she's discovering, she finds her own voice in which to recount the end of this rural world – and the means of preserving it within herself forever.

Paola Pigani was born in 1963 to a family of Italian immigrants settled in the Charente. An early childhood educator, she now lives in Lyon. She came to writing through poetry, and is the author of several collections. In 2013, her novel *N'entre pas dans mon âme avec tes chaussures*, published to much acclaim and shortlisted for the Goncourt prize for a first novel, was followed in 2015 by *Venus d'ailleurs*.

Contact: Marc Korolnik

Linda Rui Feng
THE IMPORTANCE OF FLOATING

Client: Frances Goldin Literary Agency
Publisher: Simon & Schuster US & Canada
Spring 2020
254 pp.

THE IMPORTANCE OF FLOATING is a nuanced generational story in the style of Min Jin Lee's *Pachinko*, a soulful exploration of separation and immigration in the vein of Lisa Ko's *The Leavers*, and an intimate and personal novel set against the movement of history in the tradition of Ha Jin's *Waiting* or Milan Kundera's *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*

In a rural Chinese village in the summer of 1986, ten-and-a-half-year-old Junie receives a momentous letter from her father: her parents, Momo and Cassia, intend on returning to China from America for her twelfth birthday after years of separation. Much to her alarm, Junie also gathers that they may plan on taking her back to their adopted country with them, removing her from an idyllic life with her beloved grandparents.

What Junie doesn't know is that her parents are estranged from each other in America; each holding close tragedies and histories that have created an unbridgeable silence between the two. Over the tumultuous years of their youth during China's Cultural Revolution, both Momo and Cassia loved—and lost—in a way that they've never revealed to each other before, and the alienation of those private wounds feels insurmountable in a new country. But in order for Momo to fulfill the promise he made to Junie and himself, he must make one last desperate attempt to reunite all three members of the family before her birthday, even if it means bringing painful family secrets to light.

Linda Rui Feng is a professor of Chinese Cultural History at the University of Toronto and a first generation Chinese immigrant. Her writing has been supported by the MacDowell Colony and Toronto Arts Council, and her prose and poetry have appeared or are forthcoming from Kenyon Review Online, Santa Monica Review, Saint Ann's Review, Salamander, and Washington Square Review. Linda speaks Mandarin and has some French and Japanese.

Contact: Hannah Fosh

Zoe Whittall
THE SPECTACULAR

Client: Transatlantic Literary Agency Inc.
Publisher: Harper Canada; US: Ballantine
Winter 2019

Ballantine, USA

An energetic exploration of three generations of women and their shifting relationships to sexuality and motherhood and each other: smart, funny, and at times provocative and unconventional

Ruth is in her seventies living in Montreal and enjoying a hot affair with the widower neighbour, when she finds out she is dying. She decides to throw herself a farewell party in the seaside village on the Aegean where she spent her childhood in Turkey – but declines to tell anyone the reason for the party. She takes along Missy, her 22-year-old grand-daughter, a cello player in a notorious art rock orchestra experiencing a wave of commercial success. Missy, a hard-partying musical prodigy with a ravenous sexual appetite for multiple lovers on tour, is exhausted from touring and running away from an unfortunate incident at the border involving a forgotten flap of cocaine. Missy decides to take Ruth up on the offer of the plane ticket to Turkey where she hopes to dry out and get some perspective. Discovering she's pregnant right before the trip, Missy and Ruth find themselves at odds over their beliefs on motherhood and abortion. But are they really as different as they assume?

Andrea, Missy's mother, married young and never had a chance to fulfill her own needs and dreams, deciding in her twenties to leave her marriage and teenaged daughter Missy in Ruth's care. When Andrea returns, Missy is 38 years-old, changed from her art rock orchestra days and wants nothing more than to be a mother. But Missy is stuck in a stagnant relationship with a man-child and contemplating separation and becoming a single mother in her remaining fertile years. Finally fulfilling more of a mother role, Andrea comes to Missy's side to support her just as an unexpected former lover makes a return to Missy's life.

Zoe Whittall's third novel, *The Best Kind of People*, is being adapted for feature film by Sarah Polley, was shortlisted for The Giller Prize, and named Indigo's #1 Book of 2016, selected as a best book of the year by Walrus Magazine, The Globe & Mail, Toronto Life, and the National Post. She has worked as a TV writer on CBC/IFC's The Baroness Von Sketch Show, which Vogue called "the best thing out of Canada since Ryan Gosling". Her debut novel *Bottle Rocket Hearts*, was named one of CBC Canada Reads' best books of the decade. She has also written three volumes of poetry. Born in Quebec, she lives in Toronto with her family.

Contact: Hannah Fosh

Sarai Walker
THE CHERRY ROBBERS

Client: The Jean V. Naggar Literary Agency Inc.
Publisher: Houghton Mifflin
2021

THE CHERRY ROBBERS is a genre-bending feminist gothic tale that follows Sylvia Wren, a reclusive artist, as she tells the surreal story of her many sisters and how they died in mysterious circumstances decades earlier.

Set in present-day New Mexico and 1950s New England, the novel moves back-and-forth between two women and the diaries they are keeping. Sylvia Wren is an 82-year-old artist living in the high desert of Northern New Mexico, an eccentric, reclusive painter. Sylvia is one of the most important American artists of the past century, yet no one knows that she has a dark past, a hidden secret, and that she is not who she claims to be.

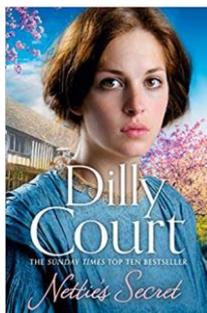
Iris Chapel is one of six sisters, all of them heiresses to a firearms fortune. Iris's Blue Diary tells the story of her and her sisters' lives in an enormous Victorian house in the Connecticut countryside with their mother, a woman who sees ghosts, hears voices, and suffers from dark visions of impending doom. Iris and her sisters come of age in the 1950s, in an era of stifling femininity and forced domesticity, and one by one, they begin to die mysteriously. Iris knows there's only way to survive, and that's to run far away. How and where the two women's stories intersect and converge will surprise even the canniest readers.

Like *Dietland*, THE CHERRY ROBBERS subverts conventions of women's fiction and romance. Sarai Walker plays with conventions of female Gothic fiction, both the "haunted house" kind of Gothic (a la Shirley Jackson) and Southern Gothic fiction (a la Carson McCullers), which reckons with the violence of the past. She creates a vivid, surreal, and deliciously dark tale that promises to ignite readers' passionate responses.

Sarai Walker received her M.F.A. in creative writing from Bennington College. She subsequently served as an editor and writer for *Our Bodies, Ourselves*, before moving to London and then Paris to complete a Ph.D. She currently lives in the New York City area. She is the critically acclaimed and bestselling author of *Dietland*, an AMC original series now on Hulu.

Contact: Marc Koralnik

Commercial



Dilly Court **NETTIE CARROLL'S SECRET**

Client: Teresa Chris Literary Agency Ltd
Publisher: HarperCollins UK
16. May 2019
530 pp.

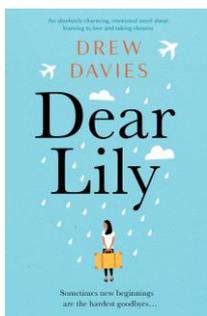
Italy – Leone Editore, Czech Republic – Baronet, Spain – Quinta Essencia, Portugal – Quinta Essencia

The new novel from the *Sunday Times* bestselling author

London, 1875. Nettie loves her artist father, the once famous Robert Carroll. His popularity has declined but his spending habits always exceed his income, and they are constantly on the run from creditors. Nettie has ambitions to become a novelist, but her first manuscript is rejected by the publishers, and she continues to work in secret. Desperate for money, Robert is mixed up with crooked art dealer, Duke Dexter. The Carrolls bohemian lifestyle in London's Covent Garden comes to an abrupt end when her father trusts the wrong man. Now they would have to go on the run. Once again.

Dilly Court grew up in North East London and began her career working in television. She is married with two grown up children and now lives in Dorset on the beautiful Jurassic Coast.

Contact: Hannah Fosh



Drew Davies **DEAR LILY**

Client: Blake Friedmann Literary, TV and Film Agency Ltd
Publisher: Bookouture
May 2019
198 pp.

Heartwarming and heartbreaking novel for fans of Jojo Moyes, Eleanor Oliphant, and One Day in December

Dear Lily,

It's me, Joy, your much wiser and (very slightly) older sister. I thought I'd start a new tradition of letter writing – now that we're long distance. On the plane over here, I began to cry in seat 21C. I think the magnitude of it finally hit me, after everything that happened...

I haven't even unpacked yet – the only thing I've taken out of my suitcase is Harville, your beloved childhood teddy. Sorry for stealing him, but I need him more than you do. Every time I look at that little brown bear I think about our childhood. Remember that dance we made up to Annie's 'It's a Hard Knock Life'? (Remember the broom choreography?)

I'm also sorry for abandoning you – I've always been your agony aunt, and a buffer in your infamous shouting matches with Mum. But I had to leave, Harmony, I had to.

Anyway, I'm here now. I'm here to start over, and to face up to the past. I want to learn to laugh again, and to find someone to love who will maybe even love me back. You always told me I was just getting by, not actually living, so I'm finally doing it. Wish me luck, little sister.

Love,
Joy x

Drew Davies was born in London and grew up in Whanganui, New Zealand. He attended the Unitec School of Performing Arts in Auckland and won a Playmarket New Zealand Young Playwright of the Year award in 2000. After a brief stint on a kiwi soap, he has worked in Search for the past 15 years. Drew's other claim to fame is that Stephen Fry once called him droll. Either that, or he got his name wrong. He now lives in Wanstead, London.

Contact: Hannah Fosh

Cherie Dimaline
EMPIRE OF WILD

Client: The Cooke Agency International Inc
Publisher: Random House Canada
September 2019
320 pp.

From North America's literary superstar Cherie Dimaline comes EMPIRE OF WILD, the first adult novel of a four-book deal signed with Random House Canada (two adult novels, two YA novels) and one of the most anticipated literary events of the year

EMPIRE OF WILD is a propulsive, sensuous novel inspired by the traditional Métis story of the Rogarou – a terrifying werewolf-like creature that haunts and hunts – where the smart, Indigenous myth-filled narrative reminiscent of Eden Robinson's *Son of a Trickster* meets the sexy, dark and thrilling world of Anne Rice

Broken-hearted Joan has been searching for her husband Victor for almost a year, when, one terrible, hungover morning in a Walmart parking lot, she is drawn to a revival tent where the locals have been flocking to hear a charismatic preacher named Eugene Wolff – when she discovers Wolff shares the same face, same eyes, same hands as her Victor, he denies it, insisting that his only mission is to bring people to Jesus.

Cherie Dimaline is a Canadian Métis writer. She is most noted for her 2017 young adult novel *The Marrow Thieves*, which won the Governor General's Award for English-language children's literature at the 2017 Governor General's Awards and the 2017 Kirkus Prize in the young adult literature category. She was founding editor of *Muskrat Magazine*, was named the Emerging Artist of the Year at the Ontario Premier's Awards for Excellence in Arts in 2014, and became the first Aboriginal writer in residence for the Toronto Public Library.

Contact: Hannah Fosh



Mylène Gilbert-Dumas
THE BOOK OF JUDITH

Client: Groupe Librex Inc.
Publisher: VLB Editeur
May 2019
432 pp.

A riveting spy novel

Emily Ann is a rich American woman whose life is turned upside down in Paris when she meets a Russian revolutionary who has fallen from grace. Meanwhile, in a secret training camp, Cécile, a young French Canadian woman recruited by the British Secret Service, is getting to grips with her wartime alias. Many years later, Andrew, a pastor recently released from jail, listens to the harrowing confessions of an 106-year-old parishioner as Virginie, an author of historical fiction, starts to write the biography of a woman who was a spy during the Second World War. Life has woven a web of connections between these characters that will shed light on the mysterious disappearance of a Special Operations Executive agent, the organization created by Churchill to destabilize the German occupation in continental Europe.

In this breathless and remarkably well-structured epic historical thriller, Mylène Gilbert-Dumas shines the spotlight on the heroism of some exceptional young women who fought against Nazi barbarism during a sadly little-known episode of the Second World War. As always, the truth she conveys through her characters flows straight to readers' hearts.

Mylène Gilbert-Dumas is an author of historical fiction whose novels have won an array of prestigious literary awards in Canada and earned her a substantial following of loyal readers.

Contact: Marc Koralnik



Gloria Goldreich
AFTER MELANIE

Client: The Jean V. Naggar Literary Agency Inc.
Publisher: Severn House
February 2019
344 pp.

From award-winning author Gloria Goldreich, AFTER MELANIE tells of the heart wrenching impact of a child's death on a fragile marriage.

Judith and David find themselves numb to each other after the unfathomable loss of their 13 year old daughter Melanie. On sabbatical from teaching, Judith must face cleaning out her daughter's room. While dropping off her clothes at her temple's thrift shop, she finds herself agreeing to volunteer. All of the items accepted for sale must be only gently used – and the humans too. Within this community, she discovers the balm of helping others through sharing in both their joys and tribulations. But things tip into dangerous territory when she travels to a widower's home to help him clean out the house of his wife's belongings.

Burying himself in his work, David meets a single mother and her daughter who is the same age as his would have been. With this small family, David finds the release he is searching for – but where will it lead?

Beautifully told, AFTER MELANIE helps us understand the depths of the healing heart.

Gloria Goldreich is the critically acclaimed author of several novels, including *The Bridal Chair* (Sourcebooks 2015), *Open Doors* (Mira 2008), *Dinner With Anna Karenina* (Mira 2006), *Walking Home* (Mira 2005), *Leah's Children* (Berkley 1985), and *Leah's Journey* (Harcourt 1978; Berkley 1983), which won the National Jewish Book Award. Her books have been selections of the Book of the Month Club, the Literary Guild and the Troll Book Club. Gloria and her husband live in Tuckahoe, New York.

Contact: Marc Koralnik

Molly Greeley
THE CLERGYMAN'S WIFE

Client: The Jean V. Naggar Literary Agency Inc.
Publisher: William Morrow
December 2019
225 pp.

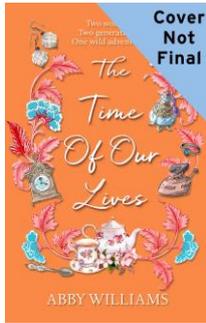
Appealing to the myriad Austen lovers as well as readers of historical literature focusing on the lives of women, THE CLERGYMAN'S WIFE is a jewel of a book with great potential!

At twenty-seven, plain and lacking a dowry, Charlotte Lucas married sycophantic William Collins to avoid the shame of becoming a perennial burden with no real home of her own. As she never expected to find true love or friendship in marriage, the security her suitor offered seemed like more than enough reason to accept him. After several years of marriage to a man she has difficulty respecting, and living under the constant scrutiny of her husband's patroness, Charlotte longs for something different, even if she cannot entirely envision what that might be. Then a chance meeting leads to friendship and tentatively – more with a local farmer, and Charlotte is suddenly able to imagine a life less stifling, full of possibilities and, perhaps, even love.

THE CLERGYMAN'S WIFE by debut writer Molly Greeley is about the life of Charlotte Collins, a peripheral character from Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, in the early years of her marriage. It is a look at how women's lives have been historically constrained, and the choices one woman makes within the bounds of the time and society into which she was born.

Molly Greeley earned her bachelor's degree in English, with a creative writing emphasis, from Michigan State University, where she was the recipient of the Louis B. Sudler Prize in the Arts for Creative Writing. Her short stories and essays have been published in Cicada, Carve, and Literary Mama. She works on social media for a local business, is married and the mother of three children but her Sunday afternoons are devoted to weaving stories into books.

Contact: Marc Koralnik



Abby Williams
THE TIME OF OUR LIVES

Client: Blake Friedmann Literary, TV and Film Agency Ltd
Publisher: Head of Zeus
August 2019
222 pp.

The tale of two women, fifty years apart in age, who become housemates and unlikely friends

Twenty-six-year-old Erin has everything she's ever wanted – a good job, a gorgeous fiancé and a best friend who's always there for her. But when she catches her boyfriend cheating with her best friend, life as she knows it falls apart. Unable to return home to her parents, she takes a room in a house nearby and her life starts over in the most unexpected of ways...

Seventy-six-year old Lydia, who, shocked by the sudden death of her husband, is devastated to discover that he has left her in debt. With no choice but to take in a lodger, Lydia places an ad and Erin comes into her life. When Lydia finds a letter in her attic from her first love, Jack – who went off to do his national service sixty years earlier and from whom she never heard again – she realises that there was a secret in her marriage for all of these years as her husband had, apparently, hidden this from her. It's time to find out what happened to Jack and, with Erin by her side, Lydia finds herself going on a trip of a lifetime.

Poignant and life-affirming, THE TIME OF OUR LIVES promises to be a perfect slice of commercial women's fiction about second chances, love and the healing power of friendship, for fans of JoJo Moyes and Ruth Hogan. And it proves that age really is just a number!

Fiona Ford writing as Abby Williams: **Fiona Ford** is an experienced freelance journalist and prolific novelist. She has written for weekly women's magazines for the past fifteen years and is the author of six novels – two contemporary novels under the penname Fiona Harrison, two WW2 sagas for Orion and now a new series set during the Second World War for Penguin Random House. THE TIME OF OUR LIVES is again a slice of contemporary women's fiction.

Contact: Hannah Fosh

Suspense

Stephanie Austin
DEAD IN DEVON
A Juno Browne Mytery

Client: Teresa Chris Literary Agency Ltd
Publisher: Allison & Busby (Hardcover)
June 2019

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 has enjoyed a varied career, working as an artist and an antiques trader, but also for the Devon Schools Library Service. When not writing she is actively involved in amateur theatre as a director and actor, and attempts to be a competent gardener and cook. She lives in Devon.

Contact: Hannah Fosh

Will Carver
NOTHING IMPORTANT HAPPENED TODAY

Client: Blake Friedmann Literary, TV and Film Agency Ltd
Publisher: Orenda
2019

„Possibly the most interesting and original writer in the crimefiction genre.” — Luca Veste

Nine people arrive one night on Chelsea Bridge. They've never met. But at the same time, they run, and leap to their deaths. Each of them received a letter in the post that morning, a prewritten suicide note, and a page containing only four words: Nothing important happened today.

That is how they knew they had been chosen to become a part of The People Of Choice. A mysterious suicide cult whose members have no knowledge of one-another.

Thirty-two people on that train witness the event. Two of them will be next. By the morning, People Of Choice are appearing around the globe: a decapitation in Germany, a public shooting at a university in Bordeaux, in Illinois, a sports team stands around the centre circle of the football pitch and pulls the trigger of the gun pressed to the temple of the person on their right. It becomes a movement.

A social media page that has laid dormant for four years suddenly has thousands of followers. People go there to discuss the suicides or argue or enquire about membership.

The police are working hard to find a link between the cult members, to locate a leader that does not seem to exist. They focus on Young Levant. One of the nine jumpers from Chelsea bridge. The one the media calls The Man In The Light. His uncle, a retired police detective, is running his own investigation. To find the truth and clear his dead nephew's name.

But how do you stop a cult where people do not know that they are a member? One week after the two witnesses jump to their deaths, twenty letters are opened across London that all say the same thing. Later that day, the strangers all know to meet at Tower Bridge. The Teacher will jump first. The Detective will be last.

Will Carver is the author of the acclaimed *January David* series (UK: Arrow), who was featured in the Mammoth Book of Best British Crime 11 alongside Lee Child, Simon Kernick and Val McDermid.

Contact: Marc Koralnik

Karen Dietrich
THE BOTTOM OF THE DEEP BLUE SEA

Client: The Martell Agency
Publisher: Grand Central
2020
237 pp.

“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, 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.

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



Chang Kuo-Li
THE SNIPER AND FRIED RICE

Client: THE GRAYHAWK AGENCY
Publisher: Marco Polo
2019
352 pp.

Imagine Jason Bourne meets an older and grumpier John McClane, both inadvertent players in a top-secret international arms deal scandal worth billions of dollars. Spiced the story with black humor, Chinese cuisine and secret societies, and you get THE SNIPER AND FRIED RICE – a truly original take on the international thriller, Taiwanese style.

Twelve days before retirement, Taipei police detective Wu is given a curious case: a Navy officer’s suicide in his hotel room. He is clearly murdered, Wu thinks, but the military wants to close the case as suicide, with no questions asked. And that is only the first of a series of suspicious deaths.

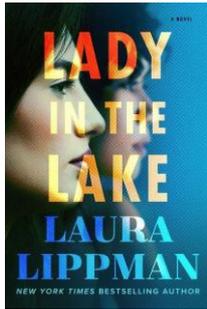
At the same time, a sleeping cell is called to action. Alex is a young Taiwanese sniper, ex-Marine, ex-French Foreign Legion, currently a fried rice chef in Manarola, Italy. Ordered to assassinate a high-level Taiwanese government advisor in Rome, he is soon on the run, hunted by his old brothers-in-arms across Europe.

Who is killing Navy officers in Taiwan? And who ordered the kill in Rome? As Wu races against time to solve the mounting cases before retirement, Alex embarks on a journey back to Taiwan, back to his beginning, where a group of war orphans were raised by a benevolent “grandpa” and trained to serve the nation.

Based on the biggest military corruption case in Taiwan history – the murder of Navy Captain Yin Ching-feng – **THE SNIPER AND FRIED RICE** is both a masterclass in thriller writing and a study of the heart of darkness in the time of war and peace. This is also the first in a series of “food meets crime” novels written by leading Chinese-language crime writers, all to be published by Marco Polo and edited by Sean Hsu, Taiwan’s leading crime editor and critic.

Chang Kuo-Li, one time editor-in-chief of China Times Weekly, has won numerous awards for his writing. A linguist, historian, army expert, sports fan, food critic, as well as poet, playwright and novelist, he is truly a Renaissance man. He has published a dozen books over his career, including *Italy in one bite*, *Birdwatchers*, *The Jobless Detective*.

Contact: Marc Koralnik



Laura Lippman
THE LADY IN THE LAKE

Client: Vicky Bijur Literary Agency
Publisher: William Morrow
July 2019
352 pp.

Faber, UK

A new standalone novel set from New York Times bestselling author Laura Lippman

Baltimore, 1966: A wealthy and beautiful woman in her thirties, Maddie Schwartz, divorces her husband, leaves the suburbs for the city, gets herself a job at a newspaper, and starts asking a lot of questions that no one will answer about a young woman found dead in a fountain. Who is the lady in the lake? Why are so many people terrified of Maddie’s interest in her? Whose lives would be destroyed if the truth about the dead woman’s identity came to light?

Laura Lippman is a New York Times bestselling novelist who has won more than twenty awards for her fiction—and been nominated for thirty more. Since her debut in 1997, she has published twenty-one novels, a novella, a children’s book, and a collection of short stories. Her books have been translated into more than twenty languages. **LitHub named her one of the “essential” female crime writers of the last hundred years.** She also has written for the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post, Vulture, Real Simple, and T magazine. Her novel *Every Secret Thing* was optioned and produced by Frances McDormand and premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival, starring Diane Lane, Elizabeth Banks, and Dakota Fanning. Laura lives in Baltimore with her husband, David Simon, and their daughter.

Lippman’s last standalone, *SUNBURN* was one of EW’s favorite crime novels of 2018, one of Kirkus Reviews Best Mysteries and Thrillers of 2018: "Plotty, page-turning pleasure plus instructions on how to make a perfect grilled cheese sandwich and how to stab a man in the heart."

Praise for Laura Lippman:

"Every time Laura Lippman comes out with a new book, I get chills because I know I am back in the hands of the master. She is simply a brilliant novelist..." —Gillian Flynn

"[Lippman] writes like a dream." —Stephen King

"Laura Lippman continues to push the envelope of modern crime-writing." —Harlan Coben

"...a writer at the height of her powers." —Booklist

"...a force to be reckoned with in crime fiction." —Publishers Weekly

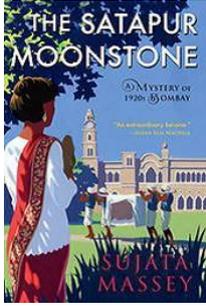
"She’s one of the best novelists around, period." —Washington Post

"...extravagantly gifted..." —Chicago Tribune

"Lippman has enriched literature as a whole." —Chicago Sun-Times

"Lippman is a writing powerhouse." —USA Today

Contact: Hannah Fosh



Sujata Massey
THE SATAPUR MOONSTONE

Client: Vicky Bijur Literary Agency
Publisher: Soho Press
May 2019
360 pp.

Neri Pozza, ITALIAN
Penguin Random House India, INDIA
Gummerus, FINLAND

"Even better than the series' impressive debut...The winning, self-sufficient Perveen should be able to sustain a long series." Publishers Weekly

It is rainy season in the lush, remote Sahyadri mountains of India in 1922, where the princely state of Satapur is tucked away. A curse seems to have fallen upon Satapur's royal family, whose maharaja died of a sudden illness shortly before his teenage son was struck down in a tragic hunting accident. The state is now ruled by an agent of the British Raj on behalf of Satapur's two maharanis, the dowager queen and her daughter-in-law.

The royal ladies are in a dispute over the education of the young crown prince, and a lawyer's counsel is required. However, the maharanis live in purdah and do not speak to men. Just one person can help them: Perveen Mistry, Bombay's only female lawyer. Perveen is determined to bring peace to the royal house and make a sound recommendation for the young prince's future, but she arrives to find that the Satapur palace is full of cold-blooded power plays and ancient vendettas. Too late, she realizes she has walked into a trap. But whose? And how can she protect the royal children from the palace's curse?

Sujata Massey was born in England to parents from India and Germany, grew up in St. Paul, Minnesota, and lives in Baltimore, Maryland. She was a features reporter for the Baltimore Evening Sun before becoming a full-time novelist. Her novels have won the Agatha and Macavity awards and been finalists for the Edgar, Anthony, and Mary Higgins Clark prizes.

The first Perveen Mistry novel, *The Widows of Malabar Hill*, was an international bestseller and has been nominated for the Mary Higgins Clark and Agatha Awards.

Contact: Hannah Fosh

Jennifer Stone
CHERRY SLICE
A CHERRY P.I. MYSTERY

Client: Blake Friedmann Literary, TV and Film Agency Ltd
Publisher: Prelude Books
October 2019

Bolinda, UK AUDIO

Miss Marple meets *The Only Way Is Essex* in a new cosy crime series

When Kenny Thorpe, a contestant on Expose TV's Big Blubber, the hot new celebrity weight-loss show, is murdered on live television in front of 3 million viewers, the case seems pretty watertight. After all, everyone saw Barry do it – didn't they?

Cherry Hinton knows there's more to this than meets the eye. As an investigative reporter, she went undercover on dating show Caravan of Love... but after getting in too deep with one of the other contestants, she was caught knickerless in front of the nation. Humiliated, fired and heartbroken, she has fled to Brentwood, where she opens a cake shop, and tries to forget all about Expose.

Until Kenny Thorpe's sister walks into her shop with a letter that turns Cherry's world upside down. Is Barry innocent? How is infamous gangster Leon Solent involved? Is Expose to blame, and is there a killer still on the loose? Cherry is the only one in a position to find out.

Jennifer Stone was born in Essex and spent her formative years living within its borders and enjoying the delights of the multiple night clubs and alcopop swigging opportunities available. After a stint in North Wales acquiring a degree and a further spell in Leeds, training to be a teacher, she returned to the south of England to teach English in a variety of schools. She is currently head of English at a boarding school in Suffolk and has just completed her MA in Creative Writing (Crime) at UEA. Her hobbies include gossiping, drinking white wine and visiting coffee shops. She lives with her wife and their small son. She is currently writing Book 2 in the CHERRY P.I. MYSTERIES series, CHERRY TWIST.

Contact: Hannah Fosh