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## FILM RIGHTS SOLD / OPTIONED

**LES ITALIENS** by Enrico Pandiani (Italy) – Published by Instar and Rizzoli in Italy

A 4 volumes series of crime set in France and featuring a team of policemen of Italian origins. The first 3 books have been published by a small publisher, Instar, and the last one by Rizzoli. It will be made into a TV series, produced by Italia International Film and Canal Plus, directed by Nicolas Winding Refn (Drive, Cannes 2011).

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The movie producing Weinstein Company has officially announced (April the 15th, 2015) in Hollywood Reporter magazine that the French book **LES GENS HEUREUX LISENT ET BOIVENT DU CAFÉ** (Happy People Read and Drink Coffee) by Agnes Martin Lugand (Michel Lafon, 2012) will be made into an international movie. Rights of the book are sold almost everywhere. The sequel **NE T'INQUIÈTE PAS LA VIE EST FACILE** (Dont worry Life is easy) has been published this month in France.

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Film/TV rights to Giller Prize-nominated author Elisabeth de Mariaffi's debut literary thriller **THE DEVIL YOU KNOW**, set in the early 90's about a rookie reporter assigned to the Paul Bernardo serial killer investigation, whose memories and personal research into the murder of her childhood best friend bring danger right back to her doorstep, optioned to Mark Montefiore and Patrick O'Sullivan of New Metric Media.

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**FEVER AT DAWN** by Peter Gardos (Hungary) – Published by Libri Publishing in Hungary

Dramedy / Love story

Translation rights now sold: Australia, Denmark, Brazil, Germany, Italy

This was one of the hot title of the fair.

Peter Gardos is a multiple award-winning Hungarian film and theatre director. This is his first novel, and is based on the true story of his parents, Lili and Miklos.

You might not believe this story but it really happened. It's July 1945. Miklós, a Hungarian survivor of Belsen, lands up in a refugee camp in Sweden. He's skin and bone, and he's got no teeth. The doctor says he has only months to live. But Miklós has got other plans.

He whistles up a list of 117 young Hungarian women who are also in refugee camps in Sweden. In his beautiful hand he writes a letter to each of them. He writes obsessively, sitting in the shade of a tree in the hospital garden. One of those young women, he is sure, will become his wife.

In a camp hundreds of kilometres away Lili reads his letter. Idly she decides to write back. Letter by letter the pair fall in love. In December 1945 they find a way to meet. They've only got three days. And they fall in love all over again. Now they just have to work out how to get married...

FEVER AT DAWN is a love story for the ages, a novel you'll remember for the rest of your life. Based on the letters of the author's parents, it's a sad story with a happy ending. This crazy, joyous book has now been made into a movie directed by the author himself, a Hungarian-Swedish-Israeli coproduction that will have its world premiere in 2015 at a major film festival. **FEVER AT DAWN** stars Gila Almagor, Emke Piti, Lehel Kovács, Anna Azcárate and Péter Scherer.

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**INFINITE AMMO** by Julian Gough – TBP by Pan Macmillan and Picador

**The agent is negotiating film deal.**

Naoki is a research scientist. She is a broke single mother. Her son is a computer programmer / coder who spends every waking minute playing or building computer games. And then he uses her, cutting edge research to alter his own brain in such a way that not only does he risk his own life, he threatens to bring about the end of civilisation.

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**NARC** by Crissa-Jean Chappell (USA) – Published by Flux, 2012

Young Adult

**Film rights optioned to FilmGate Miami; Diliانا Alexander will direct the feature-length script.**

Seventeen-year-old stoner Aaron Foster was offered a choice: go to jail or turn undercover narc to find the dealer who's funneling drugs into Miami's Palm Hammock High School. But Aaron has

never been good at getting close to people. He's human wallpaper, a stoner wastecase who's obsessed with video games and street magic.

With a cop from Narcotics breathing down his neck, Aaron gets himself invited to parties where the deals go down. To get close to the school's biggest players, Aaron lies to everyone--most of all, the cute but troubled Morgan Baskin. With the Everglades party on Halloween night--and a planned drug bust there--just days away, Aaron realizes that he's falling hard for Morgan . . . and trying to protect her could cost him everything.

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**THE VERSIONS OF US** by Laura Barnett (USA) – TBP by W&N, June 2015, 320 pp

Dramedy

**TV rights optioned to David Parfitt at Trademark Films (Parade's End).**

Some moments can change your life for ever. Have you ever wondered, what if...?

A man is walking down a country lane. A woman, cycling towards him, swerves to avoid a dog. On that moment, their future hinges. There are three possible outcomes, three small decisions that could determine the rest of their life.

Eva and Jim are nineteen and students at Cambridge when their paths first cross in 1958. And then there is David, Eva's then-lover, an ambitious actor who loves Eva deeply.

**THE VERSIONS OF US** follows the three different courses their lives could take following this first meeting. Lives filled with love, betrayal, ambition but through it all is a deep connection that endures whatever fate might throw at them.

**THE VERSIONS OF US** explores the idea that there are moments when our lives might have turned out differently, the tiny factors or decisions that could determine our fate, and the precarious nature of the foundations upon which we build our lives. It is also a story about the nature of love and how it grows, changes and evolves as we go through the vagaries of life.

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Film/TV rights to Giller Prize-nominated author Elisabeth de Mariaffi's debut literary thriller **THE DEVIL YOU KNOW** optioned to Mark Montefiore and Patrick O'Sullivan of New Metric Media

In the vein of Gillian Flynn's **SHARP OBJECTS** and A.S.A. Harrison's **THE SILENT WIFE**, **THE DEVIL YOU KNOW** is a thrilling debut about a rookie reporter, whose memories of the murder of her childhood best friend bring danger—and a stalker—right to her doorstep.

The year is 1993. Rookie crime beat reporter Evie Jones is haunted by the unsolved murder of her best friend Lianne Gagnon who was killed in 1982, back when both girls were eleven. The suspected killer, a repeat offender named Robert Cameron, was never arrested, leaving Lianne's

case cold.

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TV rights to Mary Elizabeth Summer's **TRUST ME, I'M LYING**, to ABC Family.

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## ALERTS

The **NICHOLAS WARG** series – Book 1 : **TRAITORS** by Peter Lindmark and Jimmy Lindgren (Sweden) – Published by Lind & Co in Sweden, book 1 in April 2015

Crime / Thriller

Loction : Sweden

We have Swedish MS and an English translation.

Peter Lindmark is a scriptwriter and director. He has made films like Robbers and Exit (with Mads Mikkelsen). Educated in the US.

Jimmy Lindgren is a sript- and copywriter, educated in the US and in Spain. A very good read. The authors, who are very well introduced in the scandi film world may already have some connections for and adaptation. But they might be interested by co-production...

**TRAITORS** is a suspense novel in the intelligence environment and the first part of a series on Nicholas Warg. It combines high pace with an effective language in a story filled with poignant destinies, unexpected twists and threats against national security. Bourne meets HOMELAND with a Scandi twist.

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**THE RETURN OF THE WORDS** by Goce Smilevski (writes in French) is the new novel of the Macedonian author of **FREUD'S SISTER**. The return of the words rewrites the fabulous and so incredibly modern 12th Century love story between Heloise and Abelard by widening the temporal scope and bringing to light two more characters that played a crucial role in the life of the couple, but were neglected before: Bernard of Clairvaux, the greatest enemy of Abelard, and Astrolabe, the son of Heloise and Abelard, who was left by his parents and not even mentioned in their letters. With the character of Astrolabe, the novel opens to the marginalized people of the 12th Century, very often named as the Renaissance of the Middle Ages. One of the greatest romances in history becomes a modern tale. There are options everywhere except in Germany. English sample translation (50 pp) and synopsis available.

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Gallimard has presented during the London Book Fair a non fiction project which sound good: a biography of Che Guevara:

**CHE GUEVARA**

by Alain Foix (France) – TBP by Gallimard

Biopic

**Writer, philosopher and playwright, Alain Foix was born in Guadeloupe. His literary works include novels and theatrical writings as well as philosophical essays and books for youth. Several of the latter have been published by Editions Gallimard in the Folio Biographies collection, among them TOUSSAINT LOUVERTURE (2007) and MARTIN LUTHER KING (2012).**

Ernesto Che Guevara (1928-1967) is an icon. His portrait by Alberto Korda is one of the most famous photographs in the world. But what does this image, too smooth, actually hide? Alain Foix sets out to discover the reality in this work. So the reader follows the young medical student on his trip through Latin America and sees him join the 26th of July movement, overthrowing Fulgencio Batista at Castro's side and becoming the prosecutor of a sadly famous revolutionary tribunal. Initiator of the «work and re-education » camps, he held several important offices in the Cuban government. Disappearing from the Cuban political scene to go to fight at Congo-Leopoldville, the man who claimed that "the true revolutionary is guided by feelings of love" was summarily executed by the Bolivian army.

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## BUZZ

### London Book Fair's Deal Highlights

A series of six-figure deals have been completed on the eve of this year's London Book Fair. Michael Joseph bought UK and Commonwealth rights, excluding Canada, to :

**GOOD MEN, BAD ME**, the début thriller by Ali Land. The novel is narrated by Milly, the 15-year-old daughter of a serial killer, who has a new foster family.

Michael Joseph also bought UK and Commonwealth rights, following a "fierce auction", to **THE SECRET DIARY OF HENDRIK GROEN, 831/4 YEARS** by an anonymous Dutch author. It is the story of Hendrik, a pensioner who refuses to give in to old age, who writes the novel in diary form from a retirement home in Amsterdam.

Author James Hamilton-Paterson is moving from Faber to Head of Zeus (HoZ) after a six-figure, two-book deal was struck. In one of his first major acquisitions for HoZ, former Faber editor Neil Belton signed the titles from Ed Wilson at Johnson & Alcock. The first, a non-fiction title **MARKED FOR DEATH**, covers the development of aerial warfare in the First World War.

HarperCollins has signed six-figure deals with fantasy writer Mark Lawrence and crime author Jane Casey :

HarperVoyager's Jane Johnson signed UK and Commonwealth rights (excluding Canada) to a trilogy by Lawrence for a "substantial" six-figure sum.

**THE RED SISTER** Trilogy will feature a female protagonist, trained to kill using wild, natural magic.

Johnson said: "Mark Lawrence is one of the best reasons I continue to be a publisher: he is without doubt the finest new writer to enter the fantasy field in the past decade and I am hugely proud to publish him. He has an extraordinary talent, combining wonderfully lyrical writing with a very dark sensibility and a scientist's precision, and he has turned the genre on its head."

Following an auction, HC crime and thriller publisher Julia Wisdom signed three books by Casey, previously published by Ebury.

Wisdom said: "Jane is a terrifically talented crime writer and I've admired her from afar for some time. She hits that perfect note: cleverly constructed, intricate and suspenseful plots, alongside characters you like, who stay with you and grow book on book. Her Maeve Kerrigan novels have already attracted wonderful reviews and many fans, and we see an opportunity to take her out to a whole new readership in the UK and in our international territories."

Gollancz has acquired two "controversial, postmodern satirical" novels by Victor Pelevin, who won the Russian Little Booker Prize, which is awarded to genre writing, in 1993 for his short-story collection **THE BLUE LANTERN**.

Publishing director Gillian Redfearn bought world English rights to **S.N.U.F.F** and **EMPIRE V** from the AN&N Group, in a five-figure deal.

**S.N.U.F.F** is a "stunning post-apocalyptic take on war and the media . . . exploring the conflict between the nation of Ukraine and the city 'Big Byz' [which is located] above."

**EMPIRE V** is a postmodern satire about a young man who involuntarily joins an arcane cult.

Gollancz has also acquired a sequel to Sir Arthur C Clarke's **A MEETING WITH MEDUSA**, which will be written by Alastair Reynolds and Stephen Baxter, who worked with Sir Terry Pratchett on the Long Earth series.



Twenty7 Books, Bonnier's debut-only adult fiction imprint, has revealed its first acquisitions. The list will publish exclusively in e-book first, with mass-market paperbacks released around six months later.

The imprint's first title will be Ayisha Malik's **SOFIA KHAN IS NOT OBLIGED**, described as "the Muslim Bridget Jones", in September. Other buys include psychological drama **THE HIDDEN LEGACY** by Graham Minett; **STASI CHILD**, the first in a historical crime trilogy by David Young; and **THE EXCLUSIVES** by Rebecca Thornton, which is set in an elite private school.

Publisher Joel Richardson said: "We feel that our innovative method of publishing first in digital will enable us to go to retailers with a story behind each title as we sell the physical books, using reviews and e-book sales figures to encourage retailers to support us in the current risk-averse environment."

Canongate has signed world rights in a book by Globe Theatre artistic director Dominic Dromgoole, charting the experience of staging Shakespeare's Hamlet around the world.

Publishing director of non-fiction Katy Follain signed King of **INFINITE SPACE – TAKING HAMLET AROUND THE WORLD** from Patrick Walsh at Conville & Walsh. US rights were bought by Jamison Stoltz and Morgan Entekin at Grove Atlantic.

The book explores the play and the Globe's project to perform it in every country around the world to mark the 450th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth.

Scholastic (Big US publisher and seller of children's titles) has acquired a royal superhero fantasy adventure series about Prince Alfie, heir to the throne, by UK TV scriptwriters Mark Huckerby and Nick Ostler.

The publisher acquired world rights to two titles in the series and the first book, **DEFENDER OF THE REALM**, will be published in 2016. The sequel will follow in 2017.

Commissioning editor David Maybury said: "**DEFENDER OF THE REALM** is the book you wait years to find. It captures the perfect alchemy of humour, action and voice to create a world and a story so compelling it's impossible to stop reading. I'm thrilled to be working with Mark and Nick, two of most talented and experienced screenwriters in the world."

Huckerby and Ostler are the scriptwriters of TV shows such as "Peter Rabbit" and "The Octonauts", as well as the upcoming "Danger Mouse", which will be released by the BBC this autumn. **DEFENDER OF THE REALM** is their first children's book.

Scholastic's UK trade and rights director Antonia Pelari said the books will have global appeal: "The world is fascinated by our Royal family so we're thrilled to have another strong British export. This is a truly compelling new series and we can't wait to get copies into the hands and imaginations of our customers."

Orchard Books has acquired a new YA trilogy by Ten Terry, having recently published her **SLATED** series. Terry's **DARK MATTER** books centre around 16-year-old Shay during a deadly epidemic. The first book is scheduled for February 2017.

Fourth Estate editor Anna Kelly has acquired UK and Commonwealth rights to **MAYBE ESTHER** by German author Katja Petrowskaja, from Haper Collins USA. Originally published in German by Suhrkamp in 2013, the title won the Ingeborg Bachmann Prize, a venerable award for books written in the German language. Rights have been sold in more than 20 languages.

**MAYBE ESTHER** tells the story of the author's search for the colourful and traumatic history of her Jewish ancestors.

Scott Pack has made his first acquisition at Aardwark Bureau, his new imprint at Gallic Books. Pack bought UK and Commonwealth rights to **WHEN THE PROFESSOR GOT STUCK IN THE SNOW** by Dan Rhodes. Rhodes self-published 400 hardback copies of the title in February 2014, attracting mainstream media coverage and critical acclaim. The novel is satire starring atheist Richard Dawkins, who is forced to stay with a vicar and his wife after getting caught in a blizzard. Pack said Dawkins has a « great sense of humour » and was « champion of free speech », adding that he thought other publishers were too afraid to publish the title for fear of being sued.

Editura Rocco (Brazilian publisher) has bought Brazilian Portuguese rights in **FLYING FERGUS**, a six-book series for readers aged five to eight by Olympian Sir Chris Hoy and Joanna Nadin, in a six-figure pre-empt.

Hot Key Books has acquired UK & Commonwealth rights to the series, which comprises five fiction books and one non-fiction title.

The first two books will be published in the UK in March 2016.

Accent Press has acquired four books by Alice Raine. The **REVEALED** series, about a secret relationship that develops between an actor and a teacher, will be published by Accent's erotic romance list Cariad, which launched last year with another fiction series by Raine, **UNTWISTED**. The publisher said that the **UNTWISTED** titles had combined to sell more than 130,000 copies to date.

Mantle has bought UK and Commonwealth rights to **THE TRAP** by Melanie Raabe (Germany) after an "intense auction". The novel follows a reclusive novelist who sees the man she believes killed her sister on television—and tries to entrap him using herself as bait. Mantle will publish in spring 2016.

Picador associate publisher Ravi Mirchandani has acquired world rights in all languages to **INFINITE** by Julian Gough, in which protagonist Colt leaks the work of his mother—a university researcher—to a stem cell research conference, where her paper is rapturously received . . . until the conference is closed down and the pair have to go on the run. Mirchandani struck the deal with Charlie Campbell of Kingsford Campbell.

HarperCollins has signed two crime novels by former Territorial Army troop commander Kate Medina. Crime and thriller publisher Julia Wisdom signed UK and Commonwealth rights (excluding Canada) from Will Francis at Janklow & Nesbit. The first title is due in spring 2016. Medina published her first book, **WHITE CROCODILE**, with Faber as K T Medina.

HarperTeen has acquired Colleen Oakes's YA trilogy, **QUEEN OF HEARTS**. Set in Wonderland before Alice has arrived, this fantasy re-imagining tells the origin story of classic literature's most-feared villain, the Queen of Hearts. The first two books in the series were originally published by SparkPress. Prisoner of Hearts, book one in the trilogy, is slated for summer 2016.

Random House has bought two standalone middle-grade novels by Michelle Schusterman. The first, tentatively titled **MADEVILLE**, was previously under contract with Egmont USA. It's about a girl who longs to sing and, after flubbing a big audition due to stage fright, comes upon an old theater run by a glamorous but sinister grand-dame of show business. Publication is scheduled for spring 2017; A second standalone novel will follow a year later.

In a major six-figure deal, St. Martin's Press acquired world rights to Lisa Renee Jones's **DIRTY MONEY** series. Described as "the boardroom meets SONS OF ANARCHY, the series is about "a wealthy family with secrets to hide." The first book is slated for summer 2016. Jones is also the author of the **INSIDE OUT** series, which is now in development by Suzanne Todd (Alice in Wonderland, Austin Powers) for cable TV.

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The Buzz Books of the London Book Fair - 1

**THE LONELINESS OF DISTANT BEINGS** by Kate Ling – Davies – TBP by Little, Brown Books for

Young Readers

Young Adult

We have the plot synopses for books 2 and 3 in the series

An action-packed romance set on a spaceship – We recommended it.

The protagonists begin their lives on the planet they escaped to and which they believed to be uninhabited. They soon find out that other humans live there too, and Seren meets her mother who she thought was dead.

Sinister forces among the community are exposed and the love triangle between Seren, Dom and Ezra develops further. It is hard to get much of an impression of how compelling the story would be from the very broad plot outline but it is useful to see where the series is headed.

THE LONELINESS OF DISTANT BEINGS is mesmerizing coming of age YA debut about a 16 year old girl who will live and die on a multigenerational space mission; who falls in love and dreams of escape as they orbit a potentially habitable planet.

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The Buzz Books of the London Book Fair - 2

The **HACKER** series by Meredith Wild – Self published, #1 first published in 2013, now TBP by Grand Central in the USA

Young Adult

French rights acquired

Page turning series of 5 books so far. Addicting !

**HARDWIRED #1**

Determined to overcome a difficult past, Erica Hathaway learns early on to make it on her own.

Days after her college graduation, she finds herself face to face with a panel of investors who will make or break her fledgling startup. The only thing she didn't prepare for was going weak in the knees over an arrogant and gorgeous investor who seems determined to derail her presentation. Billionaire and rumored hacker Blake Landon has already made his fortune in software, and he's used to getting what he wants. Captivated by Erica's drive and unassuming beauty, he's wanted nothing more than to possess her since she stepped into his boardroom. Determined to win her over, he breaks down her defenses and fights for her trust, even if it means sacrificing a level of control he's grown accustomed to. But when Blake uncovers a dark secret from Erica's past, he threatens not just her trust, but the life she's fought so hard to create.

## **HARDPRESSED #2**

In **HARDPRESSED**, the highly anticipated second book of the Hacker Series that began with *Hardwired*, Blake and Erica face threats that put both their love and their lives on the line.

Despite Blake Landon's controlling ways, the young and wealthy hacker finally won the trust of the woman he loves. Internet entrepreneur Erica Hathaway broke down the walls that kept her from opening her heart and her business to Blake.

Ready to start this new chapter in her life, Erica is determined not to let anything come between them, even if that means giving Blake back some of the control he craves in and out of the bedroom.

But when demons from her past threaten their future, Erica makes a decision that could change their lives forever.

## **HARDLINE # 3**

Software mogul Blake Landon has met his match in headstrong Erica Hathaway. While his controlling nature and her independent spirit continue to battle, Blake has no intention of letting her out of his life again.

Erica has given Blake her trust and her love, determined that they will conquer any challenges together. But when he demands more and tests the boundaries of her commitment, she is forced to face the dark desires he's kept hidden.

As their bonds grow tighter, their enemies close in. With Erica's start-up in danger, Blake's frustration grows as he tries to protect her from those who would ruin her only to get to him. Can their relationship survive when Blake's enemies cross the line and threaten more than her livelihood?

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The Buzz Books of the London Book Fair - 3

**THE THOUSANDTH FLOOR** trilogy by Katharine McGee – TBP by Harper Teen, 2017

Young Adult

Translation rights sold: France, Turkey, Brazil, Holland, Serbia, Italy, Norway, Spain, Germany and the UK

Sold at auction to Harper Teen on proposal in a seven-figure deal, the series also garnered 11 foreign sales pre-Bologna!

The first book is slated for publication in 2017. Katharine McGee is originally from Houston, Texas. She studied French at Princeton and then moved to Manhattan, where she began her publishing career at HarperCollins and later joined the Alloy Entertainment editorial team. After three years of plotting, outlining, and generally having far more fun than anyone ought to at work, she pitched a concept called “skyscraper city,” and knew immediately that it was something she wanted to write. Currently, she is pursuing an MBA at Stanford University. *The Thousandth Floor* is her first novel.

**THE THOUSANDTH FLOOR** is *Gossip Girl* for the future era.

Set in 2118, the trilogy follows the scandalous lives of teens in Manhattan's new thousand-story skyscraper as they struggle to find a place at the top of the world. Each character has their own demons to face, loves to be won and lost, and political battles to be fought – but when you're this high up, there's nowhere to go but down ...

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The Buzz Books of the London Book Fair - 4

**HOMEGOING** by Yaa Gyasi – TBP by Viking in the UK

Translation rights now sold : A major Spanish deal and rights also sold in Norway, Sweden, Hungary. Five offers from publishers in France, three in Italy, three in Brazil, five-way auctions in Denmark and Holland.

The story follows the descendants of two half sisters, each of whom is born in what would become Ghana in the late 18th century. One of them was married off to an English colonial official, while the other was stolen in a raid by a rival tribe.

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The Buzz Books of the London Book Fair - 5

**WHATEVER YOU SAY, SAY NOTHING** by Patrick Raden Keefe

**Significant UK deal at auction with Harper Collins.**

Explores how young people become radicalized and embrace violence in service of a cause, and by examining the complicated ways in which post-conflict societies mend – and don't – when people are obliged to live alongside neighbors with whom they were previously at war.

Based on his New Yorker article « Where the Bodies Are Buried ».

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The Buzz Books of the London Book Fair - 6

**SEE YOU IN THE COSMOS, CARL SAGAN** by Jack Cheng – TBP by Penguin Random House in the UK and in the USA

Translation rights now sold : France, Korea, Portugal. Latin America an auction ongoing.

**Jack Cheng is a Shanghai-born, Michigan-bred writer. He is a former advertising copywriter and cofounder of Disrupto, an interactive design studio building websites and apps for startups and large media companies alike. His first novel, THESE DAYS, self-published via Kickstarter, is a moving story of love and technology in contemporary New York.**

**SEE YOU IN THE COSMOS, CARL SAGAN** can be described as a moving and entertaining story of determination, curiosity and optimism that revives in the reader - female or male, young or middle-aged, a sense of wonder for human relationships as well as for knowledge and astronomy.

**SEE YOU IN THE COSMOS, CARL SAGAN** could also be compared to recent young adult crossovers such as **THE SELECTED WORKS OF T.S. SPIVET, THE PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER, THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHTTIME**. It is also a captivating road story in which almost every character is transformed by the experience as in the film Little Miss Sunshine.

**SEE YOU IN THE COSMOS, CARL SAGAN**, is now sold after an exciting transatlantic auction to Penguin Random House for both North America and UK & Commonwealth! Jessica Garrison of Dial Books for Young Readers (US) and Anthea Townsend of Puffin (UK) have teamed up brilliantly to edit and publish **SEE YOU IN THE COSMOS, CARL SAGAN** as a lead novel in either Fall 2016 or Spring 2017.

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The Buzz Books of the London Book Fair - 7

**THE PENGUIN LESSONS** by Tom Michell – TBP by Penguin UK

Dramedy

A lot of interests

Translation rights now sold : Germany, Spain, Portugal, France, USA, Italy, Sweden, Brazil, Norway, The Netherlands...

The true story of penguin who lives at a boarding school with the teacher who saves its life.

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The Buzz Books of the London Book Fair - 8

**ALBERTO'S BIRTHDAY** by Diana Rosie – TBP by Pan Macmillan / Mantle

Dramedy

Location : Spain

4 German publishers in auction

**Pan Macmillan will publish this book in January 2016 and compares it to BOY IN THE STRIPED PYJAMAS, CHOCOLAT, and THE UNLIKELY PILGRIMAGE OF HAROLD FRY.**

The chapters alternate between the present day and the 1930s, when Alberto was a little boy in the orphanage.

Alberto, 60 years old, arrived at an orphanage when he was young after seeing horrendous things during the spanish civil war. He has no memory of what happened before that, nor of his birthday, but his grandson Tino decides to find out.

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The Buzz Books of the London Book Fair - 9

**HOW NOT TO HATE YOUR HUSBAND AFTER KIDS** by Jancee Dunn (USA)

Comedy /Factual

Italian offer ; Dutch auction ongoing ; UK auction ongoing, 6 publishers bidding.

Jancee Dunn paints a loving picture of what happens to two intelligent people when they raise a child together. The agent sold North America rights for a strong six figure sum after a seven way auction. The author is an incredibly successful journalist with great media links and connections throughout the media industry she can utilise for publication. This book takes through the journey of parenting, and how to remain lovers as you are becoming parents. It combines three of the most popular genres with readers: a personal memoir of discovery, the exploding parenting market, and intriguing science that explains why we behave the way we do.

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The Buzz Books of the London Book Fair - 10

**DUCK ZOO** by Meg Rosoff –

Comedy

Translation rights now sold: The Netherlands, USA (six-figure advance at auction), Canada. Swedish offer.

**DUCK ZOO** is a contemporary romantic comedy set in Manhattan.

A hilarious portrayal of the tastes and lifestyles of Jonathan, a young bohemian-bourgeois in New York, which taps in to the same ideas of alienation and the awkwardness of trying to be a grown up seen in the recent indie film Frances Ha.

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The Buzz Books of the London Book Fair - 11

**THIS SECRET WE'RE KEEPING** by Becky Done – TBP by Penguin Random House / Michael Joseph in the UK

Romantic comedy

Translation rights now sold : strong French interests.

Imagine Bumping into your first love for the first time in 17 years. How would you feel? How would you feel if for one of you five of those years had been spent in prison? And that you were to blame?

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The Buzz Books of the London Book Fair - 12

**GOOD ME, BAD ME** by Ali Land (UK) – TBP by Penguin Random House / Michael Joseph in the UK



Crime / Psychological Thriller

Translation rights now sold : Brazil, Italy, Spain, UK, Holland, Norway, Denmark, France, Greece, USA, Japan, Turkey.

It was sold in the USA in a 6- figure deal at auction.

A very satisfying read, but certainly not cosy or comfortable! Prepare yourself for some horrific scenes.. Extremely gripping and tense with an unsettling atmosphere from beginning to end.

In the novel Milly, the teenage daughter of a serial killer, gets a seemingly fresh start at life, thanks to being raised in a foster home and given a new identity. In spite of this, Kopprasch explained, Milly's "ambition to be good is tested." Land, Kopprasch added, currently works as a personal assistant, but has long been interested in this novel's subject matter; she has a background in adolescent mental health, and her college dissertation was called "Children Who Kill."

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The Buzz Books of the London Book Fair - 13

**MISCHLING** by Affinity Konar (USA) – TBP by Ecco in the USA

Drama

Location : Germany

Epoch : WWII

This has just gone out on submission in NYC and overnight, the primary agent received the first offer. Now we heard it is 'exploding' with multiple offers everywhere.

Translation rights now sold : Italy, Israël, Germany, USA sold \$850 000. 5 Dutch offers.

The novel was ten years in the making and is Affinity Konar's second novel. The agent describes it as a singular monolithic novel! But a very dark one.

It is set in Poland in 1944 and follows twin sisters selected by Josef Mengele as subjects of his horrific genetics studies. (Mengele is the German SS officer and physician known, infamously, as Auschwitz's "Angel of Death.") After Auschwitz is liberated, one sister, along with a fellow survivor, sets off on a journey across Poland to find the other sister, as well as Mengele, in order to exact revenge on the Nazi doctor. The book, which Ecco plans to publish in fall 2016, had also sold, at press time, in a number of other countries.

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The Buzz Books of the London Book Fair - 14

**THE SHAPE OF TREES** by Mindy Mejia (USA) –

Crime / Detective

Translation rights sold: France, The Netherlands, Germany, Italy, Brazil, Hungary, UK, Spain

On the opening night of her high school play, Hattie Hoffmann is brutally stabbed. The crime rattles the small town community in Minnesota. Local sheriff Del Goodman, a family friend of the Hoffmans, vows to find her killer, but trying to solve her murder brings up more questions than expected.

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The Buzz Books of the London Book Fair - 15

**THE WATERS AND THE WILD** by DeSales Harrison (USA) – TBP by Random House in the USA

Suspense

Sold for 7 figures to Random House US

Strong interests in France and Italy

When Jessica, a depressed drug addict, died in her bathtub, her psychologist Daniel was convinced it was overdose. But the poem that came to him in the mail changed everything, and now he has to dig into a past he had been trying to forget.

It sits with Dostoevsky's CRIME AND PUNISHMENT or perhaps BLEAK HOUSE as a novel with a crime at its centre - a work of literature.

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The Buzz Books of the London Book Fair - 16

**THE LONEY** by Andrew Michaël Hurley (UK) – TBP by Hachette / John Murray in the UK

Crime / Noir / Horror

Translation rights now sold : France, Brazil, The Netherlands ; auction ongoing in the USA.

Exploring issues of faith and the survival of older beliefs, Andrew Michael Hurley's beautifully atmospheric and very dark novel has at its heart the relationship between two London Catholic boys, Smith and his mute, mentally disabled brother Hanny.

It was published by a small press as a limited edition hardback in October 2014 and has been selling well.

It makes for a very compelling, disturbing noir read. Compared to **THE WICKER MAN** and feels that it will sit well next to **THE LITTLE STRANGER** or **THE WOMAN IN BLACK**, or again the better Stephen King's. It's almost a gothic novel - Literary fiction with supernatural elements...

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The Buzz Books of the London Book Fair - 17

**CODE GIRLS** by NYT journalist Liza Mundy – TBP by Hachette Books

Factual / True story

Major deal

It is pitched as **THE GIRLS OF ATOMIC CITY** meets **THE IMITATION GAME**, about the sisterhood of American women at the U.S. Army's Arlington Hall, some of them still living today, who were recruited as code breakers during World War Two, and whose efforts helped lead to Allied victory.

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The Buzz Books of the London Book Fair - 18

**THE COST OF ALL THINGS** by Maggie Lehrman (USA) – TBP by Balzer + Bray, May 2015, 416 pp

Young Adult

Translation rights sold : Brazil, at auction, Russia and Turkey

Debut novel

**ETERNAL SUNSHINE OF THE SPOTLESS MIND** meets **WE WERE LIARS** in this thought-provoking debut that is part love story, part mystery, part high-stakes drama.

What would you pay to cure your heartbreak? Banish your sadness? Transform your looks? The right spell can fix anything.... When Ari's boyfriend Win dies, she gets a spell to erase all memory of him. But spells come at a cost, and this one sets off a chain of events that reveal the hidden—and sometimes dangerous—connections between Ari, her friends, and the boyfriend she can no longer remember.

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The Buzz Books of the London Book Fair - 19

**THE LIGHTLESS SKY: an Afghan refugee boy's journey** by Gulwali Passarlay (USA) –

Factual / True story

**Gulwali Passarlay is twenty-one—year-old. There is quite a lot of interest in this project which is being pitched as of similar importance to I AM MALALA. Gulwali Passarlay is clearly a brave and quite incredible kid.**

About his journey fleeing Afghanistan at 12, trafficked into Iran, and from there began a twelve month odyssey across Europe, through which he suffered hunger, cruelty, brutality and nearly drowned in a tiny boat on the Mediterranean, making it to Britain, where he thrived -- and in 2012 was chosen to carry the Olympic torch.

Publishing rights were sold to Atlantic Books, in a six-figure deal, for publication in November 2015.

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The Buzz Books of the London Book Fair - 20

We heard very positive things about the US title **KILLING IT** by Camas Davis, sold on proposal to Penguin Group USA. It is a narrative non fiction on an American food woman journalist out of job and out of a love story who travels to France to learn butchery and then implants a company in Oregon.

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The Buzz Books of the London Book Fair - 21

SWEDEN / NORWAY

**THE WHITE CITY** by Karolina Ramqvist (Sweden) – Published by Nordstets in Sweden

Crime / Noir / Suspense

Translation rights now sold : USA, Denmark, Czech Republic, Spain. Interests in Germany

**The excitement is significant. The author's debut novel THE GIRLFRIEND was published in 2009.**

This is a suspense novel, which has a few of the elements of the film 'Thelma and Louise'. There is only a partial English translation (50 pages), but a detailed synopsis is provided. Karin's gangster boyfriend John is dead, and she has been left alone with their baby daughter. When the enforcement officers come knocking on her door, Karin realizes that she is about to lose the only thing she has left, the house that John gave her...

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The Buzz Books of the London Book Fair - 22/23/24/25/26  
ITALY

**LE MORTI DI DIO** by Mirko Zilahy (Italy)- TBP by Longanesi

Crime / Thriller

Translation rights sold : Spain

Alfaguara (Maria Fasce) has successfully preempted for World Spanish the Italian thriller **LE MORTI DI DIO** (The Deaths of God) with agent Laura Ceccacci.

Mirko Zilahy is Donna Tartt's Italian translator and a well known editor in his own right. This is his first novel.

**IL GRANDE CALIFFATO** by Domenico Quirico (Italy) - Published in Italy by Neri Pozza

It is receiving lots of interest from all over the world. The interesting aspect of this book on Islam is that the author, an Italian journalist, has been captured by al-Qaida for a while and he describes his experience and journey.

**L'INVENZIONE DELLA MADRE** by Marco Peano (Italy) - Published by Minimum Fax in Italy

Literary novel, selling quite well in Italy. It received the attention of various international publishers (in particular from USA and Holland). The plot is quite sad - the protagonist is a young man who takes care of his ill mother who eventually dies of cancer - but the style is definitely remarkable

**IL QUADRO MAI DIPINTO** (The Never Painted Painting) by Massimo Bisotti (Italy) – Published by Mondadori.

This novel received an offer from Spain and it is being considered by other international publishers. It is a very commercial text, a mix between Moccia and Coelho. In Italy sold over 80.000 copies and also Bisotti's new stories collection is hitting charts.

Lorenzo Amurri is the Italian winner of the European Prize of Literature 2015 with **APNEA**, Fandango Libri, 2013. Literary novel inspired by his dramatic experience of becoming quadriplegic but amazing and heartwarming.

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The Buzz Books of the London Book Fair - 27/28/29/30/31/32/33  
FRANCE

**JE SUIS LÀ** by Clélie Avit (France) – TBP by J.C. Lattès, May 2015

Translation rights now sold: UK, USA, Germany, Italy, Spain, Holland, Poland, Sweden, Denmark, Turkey, Lithuania, Israël, Tauwan

Debut Novel. A feel good book and a beautiful love story.

Interests from American producers!!

Clélie Avit was born in 1986 and grew up in Auvergne. She went to school in Lyon before becoming a physics and chemistry professor. She is also a dance teacher. This is really Marc Levy's territory or in the vein of Anna Gavalda.

Elsa can no longer feel cold, hunger or fear since an accident in the mountains left her in a coma.

Thibault lost all confidence in the world the day his brother ran over two young girls with his car.

One day, Thibault pushes the door to Elsa's room by mistake and decides to settle in for a nap.

She won't tell on him, not in the state she's in. But the silence between them feels heavy, even though one of them is in a coma. So he begins to speak to her, without waiting for her to respond.

While doctors, friends and family have given up all hope for Elsa, Thibault is slowly building a relationship with her. Is he that desperate? Or has he seen something that they can no longer see?

**SOUDAIN SEULS** by Isabelle Autissier (France) – TBP by Stock in France, May 2015, 252 pp

Translation rights sold : Italy, Holland

**SOUDAIN SEULS** is getting lot of interest from producers. It is a novel about Louise and Ludovic, a young couple that has left everything for a sailing cruise around the world. On a deserted Austral island, their boat is destroyed by a storm. They will spend eight months, alone, trying to survive in a terrible environment. Ludovic dies when Louise, fighting for her own survival, leaves him during three weeks to explore the Island and find something. The second part of the novel is about how Louise will handle to be back in France (after she got saved by a ship). She will have to accept what she has lived and done.

**MARION 13 ANS POUR TOUJOURS** (Marion, 13 for ever) by Nora Fraisse (France) – Published by Calmann Lévy, January 2015

This memoir written by the mother of a teenager who killed herself because she was bullied at

school has now sold 87.000 copies in France and is getting lot of interests from movie producers but also from foreign publishers at the Fair. The mother tells about what her daughter has lived but she also alert the public opinion and works actively to protect other children who could be living the same thing.

**COMMENT ÉPOUSER UN MILLIARDAIRE** (How to Marry A Billionaire) by Audrey Vernon – TBP by Fayard

Translation rights now sold : Greece, Italy

It is a very interesting text of non fiction that has the form of a monologue – actually the transcription of a one-woman-show created by the author and now touring France – told by a young woman who is celebrating her bachelor party, the day before her marriage with a... billionaire. She talks about this: how to recognize a billionaire, how to conquer him, and the result is a funny parody of the world of billionaires, with statistics, names and true stories. You will meet here Steve Jobs, Carlos Slim Helu, Warren Buffett and all the flying circus. The text closes with a series of test to evaluate your know-how on billionaires. It is very funny but also very smart. An interesting detail: big theaters refuse her show since she is so hard on French billionaires and tells names so she performed in tiny places and in particular in factory canteens and workers loved it.

**SAUVAGE PAR NATURE. De Sibérie en Australie, 3 ans de marche extrême en solitaire** (WILD BY NATURE. A 3-year hike from Siberia to South Australia) by Sarah Marquis (France) – Published by Michel Lafon, May 2014, 304 pp

There is some big news on this 2014 book : the author's agent has just closed a 6 figures deal with a big US publisher.

At the age of 41, Sarah Marquis decided to leave her peaceful life in the Swiss mountains and set out on an extreme adventure. After saving up and finding partners, she achieved her dream: a 20,000 kilometre hike in the heart of nature. She describes her fantastic walk, which lasted from 2010 to May 2013. Armed only with a 30-kilo backpack, she experienced the superb scenery of Lake Baikal and the lush jungle of Laos, the wild splendour of the wolves of Siberia and the snow leopards of the Gobi Desert, and had surprising encounters with very different people. She also had to deal with hostile climates, the daily struggle to find food and other impromptu adventures. The memoir tells about the physical efforts, the landscapes but also about the strong spiritual experience it has been.

Great scores (160.000 copies in a month) for **HÉLOÏSE OUILLE** (Heloise, Ouch) by Jean Teulé, Laffont, March 2015

This is a fictionalized and erotic re-writing of the love story between Pierre Abelard and Heloïse in 1118 in Paris. The voice is very funny like always with Jean Teulé and it is here very burlesque-erotic from Middle-Ages. The book has sold 160.000 copies in France in a month. The author has been translated abroad in the past.

**LE DERNIER GARDIEN D'ELLIS ISLAND**, by Gaelle Josse (France) - Published by Buchet, 2014

Literary novel featuring the last guardian of Ellis Island and his love stories with two different

women. It is the French winner of the European Prize of Literature 2015.

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## NEWS

### PEN début fiction prize shortlist revealed

Books set in America, China and Iraq are among those shortlisted for the Début Fiction prize in the 2015 PEN Literary Awards.

Molly Antopol has made the PEN/Robert W Bingham Prize for Début Fiction shortlist for her novel **THE UNAMERICANS** (HarperCollins), which explores characters living in America who are shaped by the forces of history. Phil Klay's *Redeployment* (Canongate) is also shortlisted. It visits the frontiers of Iraq asking what happened there and what happened to the soldiers that returned. Also shortlisted, **THE DOG** by Jack Livings (Penguin Books) is a story collection set in contemporary China that explodes the country's cultural and social fault lines.

The other two books on the shortlist for the \$25,000 (£16,650) prize for debut work that represents "distinguished literary achievement and suggests great promise" are: **RUBY** by Cynthia Bond (Hodder & Stoughton), the story of a man determined to protect the woman he loves from the town desperate to destroy her; and **LOVE ME BACK** by Merritt Tierce (Little, Brown), a portrait of a woman cutting a precarious path through early adulthood.

Meanwhile, Naomi Klein's book about the myths surrounding the climate change debate, **THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING** (Penguin), has been shortlisted for the \$10,000 (£6,650) PEN/John Kenneth Galbraith Award for Nonfiction. It is joined by: **OUR DECLARATION** by Danielle Allen (Liveright), which offers insight to the arguments of the USA's Declaration of Independence; *League of Denial* by Mark Fainaru-Wada and Steve Fainaru (Three Rivers Press), which reveals how the NFL sought to cover up evidence of the connection between American football and brain damage; and Sheri Fink's book about doctors who struggled to survive and maintain life in a New Orleans hospital struck by Hurricane Katrina, **FIVE DAYS AT MEMORIAL** (Atlantic Press). Completing the shortlist is Jonathan M Katz's **THE BIG TRUCK THAT WENT BY**, which focuses on how little has changed in Haiti in the wake of the 2010 earthquake despite the initial outpouring of international aid due to endemic government corruption.

The \$5,000 (£3,330) PEN/Jacqueline Bograd Weld Award for Biography shortlist sees **REBEL YELL** by S C Gwynne (Scribner), the life of Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson, a Confederate general during the American Civil War, up against **THE SHORT AND TRAGIC LIFE OF ROBERT PEACE** by Jeff Hobbs (Scribner), which tells the double life of the author's college roommate, who was stuck between his crime-ridden home in Newark and his time at Yale University. The other two titles making the shortlist are **THE QUEEN'S BED** by Anna Whitelock (Picador USA), a history of Elizabeth I's court, and **PIERO'S LIGHT** by Larry Witham (Pegasus), which is about Italian Renaissance Painter Piero Della Francesca.

The winners will be announced on 13th May, along with the winners of the 2015 Career Achievement Awards.



## BOOKREPORT

### COMEDY

**FINAL CUT** by Vins Gallico (IT) - published by FANDANGO LIBRI, April 2015, 213 pages

Comedy, Romantic Comedy

Epoch: 21th century

Evaluation : 2.43/3

**FINAL CUT** by Vins Gallico is shortlisted for Premio Strega 2015.

Vins Gallico was born in Reggio Calabria and, after having lived abroad in Germany for six years, he works in Rome as a bookseller and translator. **PORTAMI RISPETTO** (Rizzoli), won the 2010 Belgioioso prize and arrived second at the Kilhgren Prize 2011. It was released in German by Assoziation A in the Spring of 2013 and was shortlisted there for BuchKultur's Best Crime Novel of 2013. His work has appeared in Granta Italia.

You can call it a terrific circus focused on our feelings and emotions.

Ironic and sarcastic, FINAL CUT is a novel about our time, a sentimental catalogue that takes a close look at relationships.

Hard times for economy, employment, market and human relationships. From this basic screening and from a simple intuition springs FINAL CUT, a company that solves feelings-related problems: a full service agency that reduces post-break up traumas. It does things such as taking care of the very unpleasant task of giving back personal items after a bad break up, or, in the most extreme cases it goes as far as telling the about-to-be former partner the "actual resolution of the relationship." The founder of the company is famous for his airtight professionalism until he is challenged with Mery, a graphic novel author apparently addicted to FINAL CUT (she used its services four times in four years). During her last call, something goes wrong and, even a company known for its professionalism creaks, changing the future of Mery's love triangle...

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**CARNETS DE THESE** by Tiphaine Riviere (FR) - published by LE SEUIL, March 2015, 179 pages

Comedy

[Location](#): France, Paris - Banlieue parisienne

[Epoch](#): 21th century

[Evaluation](#) : 2.14/3

### **Graphic novel**

**Translation rights sold: Spain**

**Please just dip into it. We assure you you will laugh. And completely fall for Jeanne, a very modern and irreverential young woman but so recognisable! in any country!**

The heroine Jeanne Dugain is a middle school teacher who teaches a class of 13 years old in the Paris suburbs.

Her students are completely unruly pupils who drive her mad, so she decides to apply for a PHD so that hopefully after three years (wishful thinking!) she can then teach at university level.

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**QUANDO MENO TE LO ASPETTI** by Chiara Moscardelli (IT) - TBP by GIUNTI, June 2015, 178 pages

### [Romantic Comedy](#)

[Location](#): France, Italy, Milan, Paris

[Epoch](#): 21th century

[Evaluation](#) : 2.29/3

**Chiara Moscardella is already a popular author in Italy. VOLEVO ESSERE UNA GATTA MORTA (Einaudi Stile Libero, 2011) was her first novel. In 2013 she published, always with Einaudi LA VITA NON È UN FILM (ma a volte ci somiglia).**

**Nice read, nice characters.**

Penelope is a 36-years-old single woman who works for a Company in Milan. She has not encountered the love of her life, as her grandmother predicted, and her career does not satisfy her. She dreams of becoming a journalist. One day, she runs over a man called Alberto with her bike, who turns out to be the new manager of her Company. He hides his identity under a fake name and Penelope wants to know why. Eventually, she discovers that he is an undercover cop and investigating on a case of drug-selling. He confesses to her that he loves her and she is asked to write an article on the drug traffic in which her company was involved.

## DRAMEDY

**LA VARIANTE CHILIENNE** by Raufast Pierre (FR) - ALMA EDITIONS,

[Dramedy](#)

[Location:](#) France

[Epoch:](#) 21th century

[Evaluation :](#) 2/3

**An original feel good novel.**

**Pierre Raufast is a computer engineer and this is his second novel after LA FRACTALE DES RAVIOLIS (Alma 2014).**

**A nice novel about a tender friendship between three different characters with amongst them a man who had an incredible life but has no memories of it and a girl who needs to deal with her memories. The universe of the author is very endearing and he definitively knows how to tell stories.**

A charming novel about Florin, an old man who suffers from a kind of autism, and has therefore no emotions and no memories. To remember what he lives, he collects little stones in bowls, each stone reminding him of a memory, an emotion, an encounter, a story. When he encounters a professor and a young girl who are his neighbors for the holidays, he tells them about his life - made of multiple crazy adventures - thanks to the little stones. The young girl Margaux is fleeing from some family problems - she has always believed she was responsible for her mother's death. Eventually, after a drunk night, Florin and his two friends will spill the bowl containing Florin's memories. The old man and Margaux - in two different ways - will have to reconsider the way they live with their memories and their past.

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**JANE STEELE** by Lyndsay Faye (US) - TBP by PUTNAM ADULT BOOKS, April 2016,

[Dramedy](#)

[Location:](#) United Kingdom

[Epoch:](#) 19th century, Victorian era

[Evaluation :](#) 2.14/3

**LYNDSAY FAYE is the author of FATAL FLAME, SEVEN FOR A SECRET, and THE GODS OF GOTHAM, which was nominated for an Edgar for Best Novel, and DUST AND SHADOW. If you were to ask her, she would say she writes hero stories. Faye, a true New Yorker in the sense that she was born elsewhere, lives in Manhattan with her husband, Gabriel.**

**Presented by the agent as "Downton Abbey meeting Dexter".**

**"Lyndsay Faye's New York trilogy is immersive, compelling, convincing, and yes, thrilling.**

**Read it today for solid-gold entertainment, but don't be surprised to see it taught in college tomorrow."—Lee Child,**

**"Faye's re-creations of mid-19th-century New York are rich with exotic sights and smells, as well as delightfully eccentric personalities...It will be exciting to see what the talented Faye decides to do next."—Kirkus**

This story follows vigilante murderess Jane Steele as she navigates the cruel world of Victorian England. When young orphan Jane is attacked by her sadistic cousin following the death of her mother, she fights back and pushes him into a ravine to his death. Jane is terrified but also emboldened by her own power. Discovering a knack for deception, Jane narrowly escapes blame only to be banished to a torturous boarding school by her brutal aunt.

After murdering her malicious headmaster and fleeing her boarding school for the anonymous London streets, Jane takes a governess post at her deceased aunt's estate with the hope of revealing her rightful claim. Upon arriving she finds a household of Sikhs and the master, Mr. Thornfield, a magnetic former East India company man. As she falls in love with her new master, she becomes embroiled in the mystery of a lost fortune and a political conspiracy spanning two continents. Desperate to win his love and prove her loyalty, she boldly solves the mystery and in the process, uncovers her own true identity.

## CRIME FICTION

**LA MORT AU FESTIVAL DE CANNES** by Brigitte AUBERT (FR) - TBP by LE SEUIL, May 2015, 250 pages

Detective novel

Location: France, Cannes

Epoch: 21th century

Evaluation : 1.86/3

**Brigitte Aubert is an author of crime novels. She had a big success in 1996 with LA MORT DES BOIS (Seuil) that sold 100.000 copies in France and was translated in 27 languages. Since she has published many other crime novels including LA VILLE DES SERPENTS D'EAU (Seuil, 2011).**

**The character of Elise Andrioli is original and her voice is amusing because cynical and made of black humour about her situation and the people around her.**

Elise Andrioli, the heroin from Brigitte Aubert's two previous novels, is invited to the Cannes Festival to attend the premiere of the movie based on her story. She is quadriplegic but still has a sharp sense of deduction, and when members of the jury start dying in mysterious accidents, she does not believe it is a coincidence. Everyone else seems to be too busy to investigate the case, but Elise decides to do it herself.

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**THE LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER** by Alan Baker (GB) - published by Snowbooks Ltd, May 2012, 320 pages

Detective novel

Location: United Kingdom, Eilean Mor Island

Epoch: 21th century

Evaluation : 2.14/3

**Alan K Baker was born in Birmingham in 1964. After leaving university in 1991, he endured a series of increasingly unpleasant jobs, culminating in a nine-month stint as a meat-packer in a Sheffield sausage factory, which served to increase his fascination with the macabre and outlandish. Since 1997, he has published a number of non-fiction books on the paranormal and popular history, which have been translated into seven languages.**

**THE MARTIAN AMBASSADOR is his first published novel. DYATLOV PASS, his unpublished science fiction thriller inspired by the unexplained deaths of nine ski-hikers in the Ural Mountains in 1959, has been optioned for film by director Simon Fellows and**

screenwriter/novelist Andy Briggs.

**THE LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER** is a supernatural tale based on the Flannan Isles mystery, one of the greatest unsolved enigmas in maritime history. Blending factual firsthand reports with speculative fiction, the novel takes the reader on a journey to the edge of reality, where the greatest of human fears - the fear of the unknown - holds dominion.

In December 1900, three lighthouse keepers vanished without trace from the remote Scottish island of Eilean Mor. An emergency relief crew was sent to man the lighthouse. At the end of their month-long duty, they resigned from their posts, and never spoke of what they had experienced on the island. The mystery of Eilean Mor has never been solved. Until now.

In the present, a group of environmental researchers arrives on the island to observe the wildlife. While exploring the lighthouse, now automated and deserted, one of the team discovers a manuscript written by one of the relief keepers, a man named Alec Dalemor.

As a sudden storm moves in, cutting off their escape, the researchers come to realise that Dalemor wrote the manuscript as a warning to all the lighthouse keepers who would come after him. A warning of something on Eilean Mor and in the surrounding ocean - something ancient and powerful, and strange beyond imagining...

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**LA BANDA TEVERE** by Yari Selvetella (IT) - published by MONDADORI EDITORE, April 2014, 250 pages

[Crime fiction](#), [Dramedy](#), [Noir](#)

[Location](#): Italy, Rome

[Epoch](#): 21th century

[Evaluation](#) : 2.57/3

**An exuberant contemporary novel that harmonizes the grim atmosphere of a crime novel with the ironic melancholy of the movies of Dino Risi and Mario Monicelli in a cocktail of social satire, typical Italian self-derision and deep humanity.**

**Yari Selvetella (Rome, 1976), a journalist and novelist, is an expert on Roman crime and has had great success with his volume, ROMA CRIMINALE (Newton Compton).**

Mauro Urbani has been called Tiber ever since the day, laden with gold and rings, he threw himself into the river from the Ponte Sant'Angelo as a test of courage. He was young and strong, nothing could happen. Now over 50, he has just been released from prison and the labor camp. One evening his daughter Monya reveals she is pregnant, and she and her boyfriend are still in college. After all he has done, Tiber thinks it is high time he acts the father and promises: I'll take care of you! And so he brings on his recruits: his two most trusted friends, Peppe Loria, known as "the Fakir" (six feet of muscle and violence, a small brain, and a heart of gold) and Mario "Bombay", a



part time bartender who dreams of opening a chiringuito on the beach in Ibiza. The band is reunited, but they are still missing a plan. At this stage enter Rashid, a delinquent of obscure provenance with the looks of an Arab prince. Will the group manage to pull ahead, avoiding their arch enemy "the Octopus" and the corrupt inspector D'Amato, the man who sent Tiber to jail?

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**FÖRRÄDARE** by Peter Lindmark and Jimmy Lindgren (SE) - published by Lind & Co, April 2015,

[Crime fiction, Thriller](#)

[Location:](#) Iraq, Russia, Sweden

[Epoch:](#) 21th century

[Evaluation :](#) 2.86/3

**TRAITORS is a suspense novel in the intelligence environment and the first part of a series on Nicholas Warg. It combines high pace with an effective language in a story filled with poignant destinies, unexpected twists and threats against national security. Bourne meets HOMELAND with a Scandi twist.**

**Peter Lindmark is a scriptwriter and director. He has made films like Robbers and Exit (with Mads Mikkelsen). Educated in the US.**

**Jimmy Lindgren is a sript- and copywriter, educated in the US and in Spain.**

After years as a mercenary for the infamous company Blackwater, the former Security Service agent Nicholas Warg, half Swedish and half Moroccan, returns to Sweden. He's going to help a friend with a job and get the money he desperately needs to retire and live in peace. But everything goes awry. Nicholas is pulled into events where not only his own life is threatened, his former love will be used as a brick. His very young son too. Even national interests are at stake.

## DRAMA

**LÀ OÙ S'ARRÊTE LA TERRE** by le Bihan Sylvie (FR) - published by LE SEUIL, April 2015, 288 pages

Drama

Location: France

Epoch: 21th century

Evaluation : 1.57/3

**Sylvie Le Bihan is the author of a previous novel: L'AUTRE (Le Seuil, 2014).**

Marion, a pregnant woman who is fleeing a choice (between her lover and her husband) and Roger, a man who is haunted by his lost love (another man who disappeared from his life four years ago) flee together to a hotel in Brittany and confront their stories. When Roger tries to kill himself, Marion discovers Roger's real problem: he has been abused his whole childhood by his perverse mother. Marion will confront the old mother and take Roger with her in her house, where they will form an original couple, raising together Marion's child.

## FACTUAL

**AFTER THE BLAST** by Garth Callendar (AU) - TBP by BLACK INC., July 2015, 256 pages

Factual, True story

Evaluation : 2/3

**There are few intimate, vivid accounts of Australians at war in Iraq and Afghanistan. This is a book written by a soldier in his own voice, capturing the pivotal experiences of service in the Australian Army. Revealing, moving, funny and full of drama, Garth Callender's story is one of a kind.**

**Garth Callender left the regular Australian Army in 2013 after a distinguished seventeen-year career, during which he served in Iraq and Afghanistan and rose to the rank of major. He now works for a technology company that is developing new ways to detect concealed explosives.**

In 2004 Garth Callender, a junior cavalry officer, was deployed to Iraq. He quickly found his feet leading convoys of armoured vehicles through the streets of Baghdad and into the desert beyond. But one morning his crew was targeted in a roadside bomb attack. Garth became Australia's first serious casualty in the war.

After recovering from his injuries, Garth returned to Iraq in 2006 as second-in-command of the Australian Army's security detachment in Baghdad. He found a city in the grip of a rising insurgency. His unit had to contend with missile attacks, suicide bombers, and the death by misadventure of one of their own, Private Jake Kovco.

In 2009, Garth volunteered once more – to lead a weapons intelligence team in Afghanistan. He was helicoptered to blast zones in the aftermath of attacks, and worked to identify the insurgent bomb-makers responsible.

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**SURGEON AT WAR** by Stanley Aylett (GB) - published by John Blake publishing, March 2015, 288 pages

Factual, Memoirs

Epoch: World War II

Evaluation : 2.57/3

**Stanley Aylett's remarkable account of six years' service as a front-line surgeon with the British Army is that rare thing: a complete narrative from the first week of the Second World War until months after the final capitulation of Nazi Germany.**

**Few war testimonies have the scope of this account. Stanley Aylett signed up in the week war was declared, and survived to tell his story, edited here by his daughter with extensive use of his own photographs and letters home. It is a narrative of courage, duty and endurance amid the fog of war, but above all a tribute to the skill and humanity of those whose daily lives revealed mankind at both its best, and its worst.**

**A profoundly moving account of a man working in conditions unimaginable today, and with the thankless task of patching up the young men prepared to give their lives for King and country...**

This extraordinary story begins in September 1939 when Stanley Aylett left a registrar post at Kings College Hospital to join the Royal Army Medical Corps. The Second World War was the last where surgeons carried out operations right behind the front line. The war also brought major developments in medicine. The author uses his diaries and letters home to relive the first advance into France; the chaos of retreat at Dunkirk; a sea journey round the Cape to join the 8th Army in Egypt; leading a Field Service Medical Unit in the desert; the British invasion of France, crossing into Germany over the Rhine, and the horror in opening up Sanbostel Concentration Camp. Alongside the challenge of managing the wounded and dying, this memoir reveals the passions of a young man - in search of love, intolerant of incompetent superiors, and ambitious for a peacetime career.

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**ON DUTY WITH THE QUEEN** by Dickie Arbiter and Barrett-Lee Lynne (GB) - October 2014, 288 pages

[Factual, Memoirs](#)

[Location:](#) United Kingdom

[Epoch:](#) 20th century

[Evaluation](#) : 2.43/3

**Rights sold in Portugal**

**In this wonderful and honest book, former press secretary to the royal family Dickie Arbiter reveals the inner-workings of everyday life inside Buckingham Palace and what it s really like to be On Duty with the Queen.**

**A wonderful account of a once-in-a-lifetime job and a truly unique service to the crown.**

It's a candid look behind some of the most salacious and sensational Royal news stories of those

days, from the perspective of someone who was not only there, but who had also long experience of the monarchy and its history, having first become a royal reporter for the first commercial radio station, LBC, as far back as The Queen's Silver Jubilee.

From that poignant moment when the world saw Diana alone at the Taj Mahal, through the AIDS tour, the marital breakdown, the publication of THAT book, Dickie's memoir offers a rare glimpse into the truth behind the often inaccurate headlines, as well as a personal view of the relationships and personalities that the public weren't privileged to see.

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**LES RÊVEURS LUNAIRES** by Edmond BAUDOIN and Villani Cédric (FR) - published by GALLIMARD, April 2015, 192 pages

[Factual, Historical, Investigation](#)

[Epoch](#): World War II

[Evaluation](#) : 2.29/3

Werner Heisenberg, Alan Turing, Leo Szilard et Hugh Dowding played a crucial part in the development of WWII. They agreed to use their genius in order to create bombs, secret codes, air battles... What do they think about what they did? Are they proud, ashamed, helpless, bitter?

A fascinating and poetic book that illustrates the dramatic role scientist can play in our society.

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**LA SHOAH DE MR DURAND** by Nathalie Skowronek (FR) - published by GALLIMARD, April 2015, 64 pages

[Factual, Testimony](#)

[Location](#): France

[Epoch](#): 21th century

[Evaluation](#) : 2.43/3

This brief essay, biting and precise, intelligently casts light upon what the fourth generation of post-Auschwitz Jews are experiencing. The first generation kept its dreadful secrets inside, while the second were compelled to live in silence. The third generation attempted, sometimes in an excessive and tactless manner, to unearth those buried secrets by making the Shoah the center of everything. And the fourth generation is attempting to make a clean break from these attitudes. Seventy years later, some take on the taboo of fiction, others dare to declare that it is time to go on to other things. And yet, it is always there, nothing is going to erase it. The relation to memory is extremely complex. After the time of forgetting, and then of obsessional memory, one has to live. The last survivors of the camps are disappearing little by little, and soon there will be no one left

who can speak of the Shoah “from the inside”. The grand-daughter of a former prisoner of the camps, Nathalie Skowronek attacks the subject with salutary verve, at once respectful and irreverent. She does not seek to provoke; her desire is rather to express a profound feeling, to encourage the sharing of a reflection that is free of all constraints of remembrance, and to open a debate.

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**TOI ET MOI J'Y CROIS** by Philippe Pozzo di Borgo (FR) - published by BAYARD, March 2015, 221 pages

[Factual, Testimony](#)

[Location:](#) France

[Epoch:](#) 21th century

[Evaluation :](#) 2/3

**As in his previous books, Philippe Pozzo di Borgo appears here as a wise man. The story remains interesting and moving and he always uses his own life and experience to illustrate what he is saying. And he has quite an extraordinary life made of obstacles, big failures but also great encounters, love and redemption. It is a man who has worked a lot on himself and there is quite a lot to learn from him. Positive message.**

Philippe Pozzo di Borgo is a quadriplegic and rich French man who wrote his story in **LE SECOND SOUFFLE** (Bayard, 2012), the book that inspired the international blockbuster Intouchables. Here, Pozzo di Borgo talks about how he believes in otherness, in the fact that we need others to accomplish ourselves.

He now believes that we can reach happiness and accomplishment only by being open to others and by knowing who we are. The idea of this book is to help readers to understand this before being in such a difficult situation as he was.

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**TI SEGUIRÒ FUORI DALL'ACQUA** by Dario Fani (IT) - published by SALANI, January 2015, 300 pages

Factual, Memoirs

Location: Italy

Epoch: 21th century

Evaluation : 1.86/3

### Debut Novel

**A touching and moving novel about life and fatherhood.**

Francesco, the baby, was born with a down syndrome, but his parents discover it the day of his birth. In this way, one of the day that was bound to be one of the happiest of the narrator's life, turns into a nightmare. At first, Dario is unable to accept the news, he says words of anger, he feels ashamed, he denies his child like something wrong, a mistake. As soon as Dario holds in his arms the little Francesco, his rage transforms in tenderness. Dario's anxiety and preoccupations are now all focused on how to guarantee to his son a normal life and make him feel happy like everyone else.

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**APNEA** by Amurri Lorenzo (IT) - published by FANDANGO LIBRI, January 2013, 261 pages

Dramedy, Factual, True story

Location: Italy, Switzerland, ROME - ZURICH

Epoch: 20th century, 1990'S

Evaluation : 2.43/3

**Lorenzo Amurri was born in Rome in 1971. He is a musician, a music producer and a writer. He has previously published a short story in the collection Amore caro (Cairo Editore), curated by Clara Sereni. APNEA is his first (autobiographical) novel. He also writes a blog (tetrahi.blogspot.com).**

**APNEA is a poignant, humorous, touching and life-affirming novel about never abandoning hope. Lorenzo is a charming, self-effacing protagonist, who manages to make light of his situation. The love story he shares with Johanna is an "ode" to the power of love and patience.**

**Lorenzo Amurri has already been invited on Italian TV to be interviewed about this book and he has featured in many articles. His tattooed, rock star style is likely to work in his favour, as well as his famous relatives and musical talent.**

An uplifting story of how one young rock musician, the son of writer Antonio Amurri and the nephew of actress Susan Sarandon, dealt with becoming a quadriplegic at 26 after a skiing accident, through the love of his family and his girlfriend. Written in a humorous, irreverent and honest style.

## AVENTURE

**SAUVAGE PAR NATURE** by Marquis Sarah (CH) - published by MICHEL LAFON,  
April 2014, 300 pages

[Aventure](#)

[Epoch](#): 21th century, 2010-2013

[Duration](#): 1000 days

[Evaluation](#) : 2.43/3

**Translation rights sold: Germany, USA (6 figures deal )**

**Link to an enthusiastic review:**

<http://www.metronews.fr/info/sarah-marquis-femme-vs-wild/mnet!yyAKAIOjufww/>

**Writer nominated for National Geographic's adventurer of the year award.**

At the age of 41, Sarah Marquis decided to leave her peaceful, uneventful life in the Swiss mountains and set out on an extreme adventure. After saving up and finding partners, she achieved her dream: a 20,000 kilometre hike in the heart of nature.

During her 20,000-kilometer odyssey, she willingly embraced different hardships: cold, hunger, pain and extreme solitude. Her rewards were the majesty of the landscapes she saw and an inner journey that allowed her to develop the philosophy of movement she shares with us in this book today.