

MYRMIDON



2015



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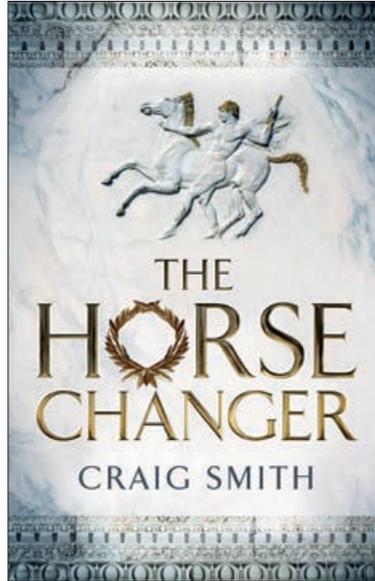
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Catalogue cover design abstracted from the jacket illustration for paperback and limited editions of *The Garden of Evening Mists* by Tan Twan Eng.



Craig Smith is a former English professor from the American mid-west, who now lives with his wife, Martha, near Lucerne in Switzerland. His first Myrmidon titles, *The Painted Messiah*, and *The Blood Lance* sold strongly and were translated into fifteen languages. In 2011, his third book, *Cold Rain*, was shortlisted for the CWA Ian Fleming Steel Dagger for Best Thriller. His hobbies are Roman history, mountain trekking and the occasional game of bridge.

The Horse Changer

CRAIG SMITH

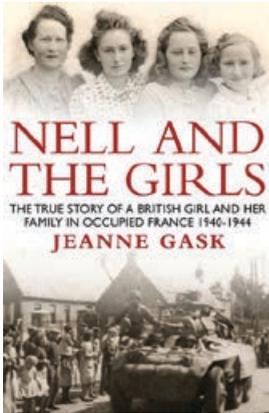
ROME 46 BC

Dreaming of service to the great Gaius Julius Caesar, the young Tuscan knight, Quintus Dellius, secures the patronage of the youngest of his generals, the dissolute Cornelius Dolabella. Dellius distinguishes himself in Caesar's Spanish war against Pompey, becomes a tribune of cavalry in Caesar's army and looks forward to an assured and glittering career.

But when his hero is assassinated the Roman republic is plunged into chaos as both his heirs and enemies jostle for power. In the civil wars that follow, Dellius is soon caught up in a maelstrom of shifting allegiances and the young soldier will need to discover reserves of both tenacity and ruthlessness if he is to survive.

As he journeys from the orgiastic salons of Rome's Palatine Hill to the Palaces of Alexandria, the rocky fortresses of Judea and the bloody field of Philippi, he manages to incur the enmity both of Egypt's queen and Rome's future emperor, but also to snare the affections of a beautiful and cunning young senator's wife, Livia Drusilla.

PB • 448 pages • ISBN 978-1-910183-13-7 • Publication date: 7th July 2015 • £7.99
Rights held: Worldwide



Nell and the Girls

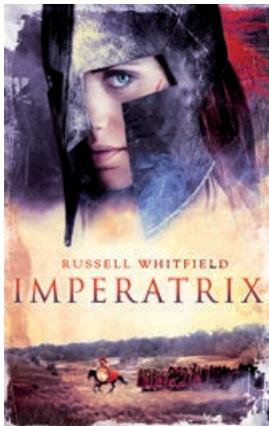
JEANNE GASK

France, 1940: The British have retreated, evacuating their forces from Dunkirk. Nell and her girls stand on the beach on a clear day and see the outline of Dover Castle but it will be four and a half long years before they return to Britain. Jeanne, her sisters and their mother Nell are left to fend for themselves in occupied France when her father is arrested by the Nazis and taken to an internment camp. Proudly British, they have also been raised speaking French. Nell is determined to keep going, keep food on the table and see her girls continue in education. She takes in washing, teaches English and tries growing vegetables but the soil is too poor. They apply for Red Cross Parcels but are told, as they are not behind barbed wire, they don't qualify. Yet amid the struggles come great friendships and pleasure in the smallest things; the rare treat of a piece of cake or tart, a Christmas tree decorated with cotton or singing in church.

Nell and the Girls is a remarkable, dramatic and heartwarming true story of a family told from the viewpoint of young Jeanne Sarginson, later Gask.

Jeanne Gask was born in Calais, France, the youngest daughter of expats Tom and Nell Sarginson. After the Second World War she married and settled in Teddington, Middlesex where she brought up her own family. *Nell and the Girls* is her story of her family's wartime experience while trapped in occupied France.

PB • 240 pages • ISBN 978-1-910183-11-3 • Publication date: 7th May 2015 • £7.99
Rights held: Worldwide



Imperatrix

RUSSELL WHITFIELD

Lysandra is back and she's going to war!

The third adventure in this visceral series inspired by the famous *Gladiator* stele found near Halicarnassus in the 19th century. Sequel to *Gladiator* and *Roma Victrix*. In the dirt of the Flavian Amphitheatre, known to history as the Coliseum, lies the bloodied body of Spartan priestess, Lysandra, cut down by Rome's adored Gladiatrix Prima, the beautiful and deadly Ileana, the Midnight Falcon.

At the edge of the underworld, the goddess Athene offers Lysandra's spirit a stark choice: reside eternally amid the fields of Elysium or return to a life full of pain and sorrow but that will secure Lysandra a glorious place in legend for generations to come. And now it seems that Lysandra's destiny also lies to the east, and the prospect of a final and bloody reckoning with an old and hated adversary.

Russell Whitfield was born in Shepherds Bush in 1971. An only child, he was raised in Hounslow, West London. Russell's near life-long fascination with ancient Greece and Rome was sparked by seeing *The Three Hundred Spartans* on ITV in the seventies. Educated to A-Level, he did not complete college, preferring instead to seek fame and fortune in a heavy metal band. Fame and fortune were not forthcoming and following a series of jobs he now works as an Internet content editor. Russ lives with his wife and daughter in Surrey. *Gladiator* was Russell's first novel, published by Myrmidon. The sequel, *Roma Victrix*, continues the adventures of Lysandra, the Spartan gladiatrix. For more information please visit www.russellwhitfield.com.

PB • 512 pages • ISBN 978-1-910183-03-8 • Publication date: 3rd March 2015 • £7.99
Rights held: Worldwide



Gladiatrix

RUSSELL WHITFIELD

Under the Flavian Emperors the Roman public's hunger for gladiatorial combat has never been greater. The Emperor Domitian's passion for novelty and variety in the arena has given rise to a very different kind of warrior: the Gladiatrix.

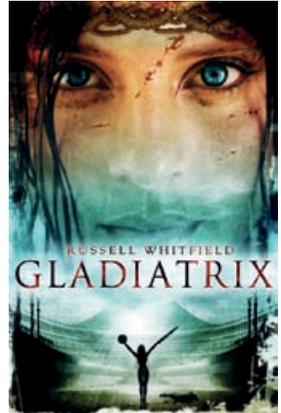
Sole survivor of a shipwreck off the coast of Asia Minor, Lysandra finds herself the property of Lucius Balbus, owner of the foremost Ludus for female gladiators in the Eastern Empire. Lysandra, a member of an ancient Spartan sect of warrior priestesses, refuses to accept her new status as a slave. Forced to fight for survival, her deadly combat skills win the adoration of the crowds.

But Lysandra's Spartan pride also earns her powerful enemies. When plans are laid for the ultimate combat spectacle to honour the visit of the new Consul, Lysandra must face her greatest and deadliest trial.

'A great debut that shines an entirely new light on the glory and the bloodshed of the Roman arena. Whitfield paints a vivid picture of the fights and the passions of women combatants. It's exciting stuff, with well rounded characters, nail-biting duels to the death and vividly depicted settings. Gladiatrix makes Gladiator look very tame indeed!'

SIMON SCARROW, AUTHOR OF UNDER THE EAGLE AND CENTURION

PB • 448 pages • B format • ISBN 978-1-905802-09-8 • £7.99 • Rights held: Worldwide
Rights sold: USA and Canada, Russian, Polish, Italian, Spanish and Serbian



Roma Victrix

RUSSELL WHITFIELD

Four years have passed since Lysandra's epic but inconclusive battle with her hated rival Sorena in the arena of Halicarnassus and after which both combatants were granted their freedom by the ambitious consul, Trajanus.

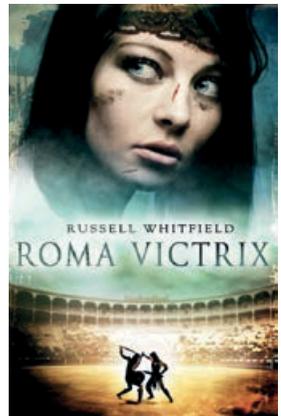
Now Sorena has found refuge among the Dacian hordes of Decebalus where she leads a vicious troop of horsewomen. Into her hands falls the young tribune Gaius Minervius Valerian and she ponders whether to deal him a slow and painful death or release him to journey back to Rome in shame and ignominy as the sole survivor of the empire's most humiliating defeat for half a millennium.

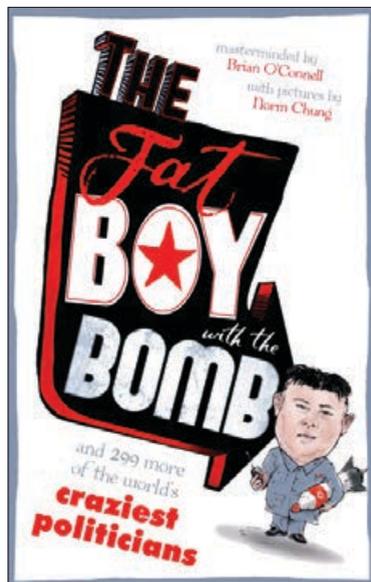
Meanwhile, back in Halicarnassus, Lysandra suffers a creeping and insidious addiction to alcohol that is sapping both her self-esteem and the friendship of those she loves most. But now the Emperor Domitian has called for a command performance at Rome's newly built Flavian Amphitheatre: the Coliseum. Lysandra is invited to fight Rome's adored Gladiatrix Prima. Her record is devastating: thirty bouts; thirty wins – no draws or losses. Lysandra has to face up to all that she is and all that she must become as all roads lead to Rome.

'...A compelling and gritty in-your-face account of life for women gladiators... I couldn't put it down! Lysandra the Spartan has returned, and she's more lethal and more arrogant than ever... full of thrilling gladiator fights, real blood and guts, and sex... what more could a reader ask for?' BEN KANE, AUTHOR OF HANNIBAL AND THE FORGOTTEN LEGION CHRONICLES

'Roma Victrix is brutal, bloody and loaded with authenticity. Just the way I like my historical fiction.' ANTHONY RICHES, AUTHOR OF THE EMPIRE SERIES

PB • 448 pages • B format • ISBN 978-1-905802-41-8 • £7.99
Rights held: Worldwide • Rights sold: Spanish, Russian, Polish, Italian and Serbian





Brian O'Connell is an American-born journalist and author who has written for the *Sunday Times*, the *Irish Independent*, *Sdu Uitgevers*, *Le Soir* and the *Wall Street Journal*. He has lived in Ireland, Australia, the Netherlands and Botswana and now lives in Oxfordshire.

Norm Chung is an illustrator and designer whose projects have included concept art and 3D modelling for the games industry, numerous comic strips and caricatures and a series of Pre-Raphaelite themed oil paintings. He lives and works in Oxford.

The Fat Boy with the Bomb and 299 of the World's Craziest Politicians

BRIAN O'CONNELL AND NORM CHUNG

This first attempt to catalogue the world's craziest politicians contains 300 caricatures and profiles drawn from every corner of the globe and representing every colour and shade of the political spectrum. The extent of their lunacy ranges from the endearingly eccentric to the pathologically insane.

Here are the fanatics and revolutionaries; the xenophobes and homophobes; Islamists, Zionists and bible thumpers; the anarchists and fascists; extreme libertarians and unreconstructed Stalinists; populists, demagogues and hated despots; the idealistic and the corrupt. Here too are the heretics and non-conformists who have dared to be outspokenly different and whose biggest crime may simply be to have kicked at the traces of mainstream political conformity.

Between them they've pronounced that wind turbines have motors in them to make it look as if they actually function, that homosexuality inevitably destroys civilisations, that the world is little more than 4,000 years old, that the 9/11 attack was perpetrated by George W. Bush, that virtuous women should refrain from laughter in public and that long hair saps energy from the brain.

They've executed their girlfriends, volunteered to be blasted by water cannon, tried to drive Darwin from the classroom, opposed cannabis legalisation while imbibing crystal meth to get them through the day, had themselves deified, been indicted for singing Nazi songs, pretended to be a cat, sobbed hysterically at press conferences and fed their opponents to packs of hungry dogs.

Here they all are in their bizarre and colourful plumage in a highly irreverent volume that seems destined to provoke curiosity, controversy and debate.

PB • 320 pages • Quality Paperback • ISBN 978-1-910183-09-0

Publication Date: 5th November 2014 • £12.99 • Rights held: Worldwide



Wanna Cook?

ENSLEY F. GUFFEY AND K. DALE KOONTZ

A must have guide for cult TV fans

The first and only companion guide available to Emmy and Golden Globe award winning TV drama *Breaking Bad*.

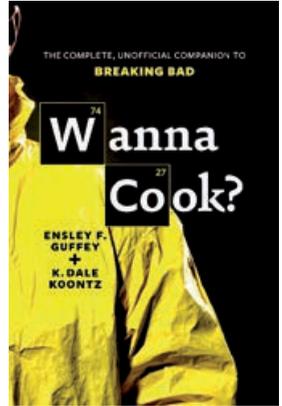
"I am not in danger . . . I am the danger." With those words, *Breaking Bad*'s Walter White solidified himself as TV's greatest antihero. *Wanna Cook?* explores the most critically lauded series on television with analyses of the individual episodes and ongoing storylines. From details such as stark settings, intricate camerawork, and jarring music to the larger themes, including the roles of violence, place, self-change, legal ethics, and fan reactions, this companion book is perfect for those diehards who have watched the Emmy Awards –winning series multiple times as well as for new viewers. *Wanna Cook?* elucidates without spoiling and illuminates without nit-picking. A must have for any fan's collection.

About the Authors

Ensley F. Guffey: Ensley F. Guffey is a historian of American popular culture, and he has published scholarly essays on *Breaking Bad*, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *Farscape*, and *Marvel's The Avengers*.

K. Dale Koontz: K. Dale Koontz is the author of *Faith and Choice in the Works of Joss Whedon* (McFarland, 2008) and teaches courses in areas as diverse as communications, film, theatre, and the law.

TPB • 500 pages • ISBN 978-1-905802-96-8 • Publication date: 13th May 2014 • £13.99
Rights held: UK and Commonwealth (ex Canada, Australia and New Zealand)



The Cartographer of No Man's Land

P.S. DUFFY

'Trust me. I know where I'm going.'

Angus MacGrath, artist, sailor and navigator, is lost caught between a remote wife, a disapproving father and a son seeking guidance. Far from his coastal village in Nova Scotia, war rages in Europe, and among the missing is Angus's adventurous brother-in-law whose unknown fate sets Angus on an uncharted course, with profound consequences for those he loves and those he comes to love.

Angus defies his pacifist upbringing and enlists to find his wife's brother. Though assured a safe job as a military cartographer in London, he is assigned instead to the infantry to the blood-soaked mud of France, where his search begins. At home his young son, once wide-eyed about the war, must navigate uncertain loyalties in a village succumbing to war fever.

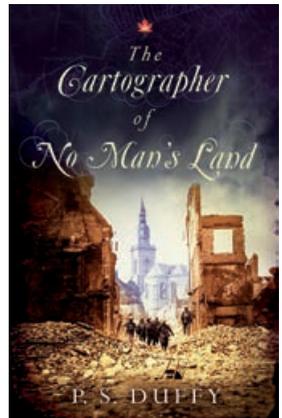
Separated by the ocean they once sailed together, Angus and his son search for what it takes to survive, each trying in his own way to return to the other. Every character in this exquisitely told story seeks to protect what matters most in the face of war's upheaval.

'...an addition to the literary canon of World War I... Turning the final page, I wanted to go back to the beginning, if only to contemplate a writer who has such a broad and compassionate understanding of the human condition.' FRANCES ITANI, THE WASHINGTON POST

HB • 384 pages • ISBN 978-1-905802-98-2 • Publication date: 20th May 2014 • £18.99

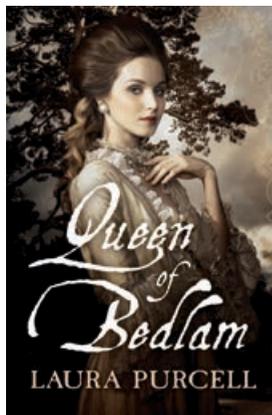
TPB • 384 pages • ISBN 978-1-910183-00-7 • £12.99

Rights held: UK and Commonwealth (ex Canada)



'Duffy's vivid descriptions illuminate war's transformative effect in fresh ways. Well nuanced characters and carefully choreographed (but still surprising) situations make this a strong debut.'

PUBLISHERS WEEKLY



Queen of Bedlam

LAURA PURCELL

London 1788. The calm order of Queen Charlotte's court is shattered by screams. The King of England is going mad. Left alone with thirteen children and with the country at war, Charlotte has to fight to hold her husband's throne. It is a time of unrest and revolutions but most of all Charlotte fears the King himself, someone she can no longer love or trust. She has lost her marriage to madness and there is nothing she can do except continue to do her royal duty.

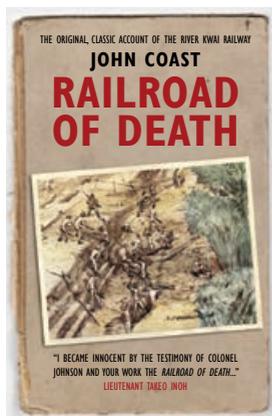
Her six daughters are desperate to escape their palace asylum. Their only chance lies in a good marriage, but no prince wants the daughter of a madman. They are forced to take love wherever they can find it, with devastating consequences. The moving true story of George III's madness and the women whose lives it destroyed.

About the Author

Laura Purcell began writing from an early age, fuelled by her love of classic novels. At nine years old, she spent a summer reading *Black Beauty* and wrote a poem about a war horse. When her teacher read it and went into raptures, Laura knew what she wanted to do with her life.

An avid fan of Jane Austen TV adaptations, *Hornblower*, *The Scarlet Pimpernel* and *Sharpe*, Laura developed a fascination with the Georgian period. Her novels explore the lives of royal women during this era, who have largely been ignored by modern history.

PB • 384 pages • ISBN 978-1-910183-01-4 • Publication date: 10th June 2014 • £8.99
Rights held: Worldwide



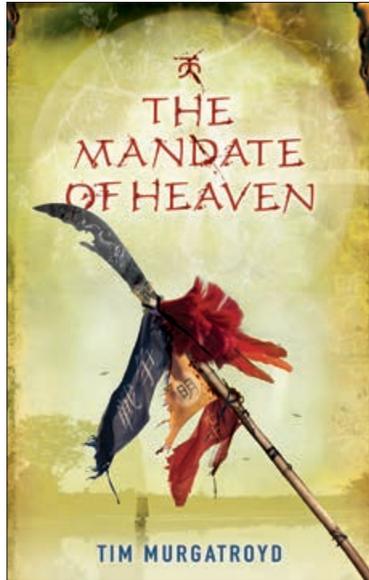
The Railroad of Death

JOHN COAST

A bestseller in 1946, *Railroad of Death* is the first and best account of forced labour on the Burma Railway. John Coast was a young officer in the Norfolk Regiment who was taken prisoner at the Fall of Singapore in February 1942. He took notes and concealed them from the Japanese for nearly three years, but he lost the lot when he was forced to bury them in Chungkai Camp to avoid repeated searches. Coast had to write the book all over again while on the voyage home. His book is moving, dramatic and chilling in the detail it gives of the cruelty inflicted by Japanese and Korean soldiers on the prisoners and Asian workers who died in even greater numbers working on the railway. Yet it is at the same time lyrical in its descriptions of the natural world surrounding the camps and the food and kindness shown by some Thais to the prisoners. Coast brings to life the camps and towns of the Burma Railway and the culture of Bali and Indonesia that so entranced Coast, allowing him to find some comfort and meaning amid the horror.

This new edition has an introduction and appendices which takes Coast's legacy of dealing with his experiences in the camps forward through to his groundbreaking 1969 BBC programme *Return to the River Kwai* and beyond and includes transcriptions of his BBC interviews with his Japanese captors and Takashi Nagase. Nagase's appearance, decades before his meeting with Eric Lomax, author of *The Railway Man*, is revelatory when he and the other Japanese are asked to comment on evidence of Japanese treatment of POWs on the Railway.

TPB • 380 pages • ISBN 978-1-905802-93-7 • Publication date: 13th May 2014 • £12.99
Rights held: Worldwide



Tim Murgatroyd is an English teacher who lives with his family in York. He has remained fascinated by ancient China since his teens, when he discovered a slim volume of Chinese poetry in a second hand bookshop. As a unique tribute to the authenticity of his writing, the first two novels of his trilogy have been translated and published in Chinese.

The Mandate of Heaven

TIM MURGATROYD

The third novel in Tim Murgatroyd's sweeping epic trilogy of medieval China.

Hou-ming, city of ghosts, central China, 1304...

In a vast graveyard created by Mongol slaughter, three children meet amidst the decaying ruins and forge a friendship that will determine their destinies.

As the years pass they separate, finding different paths in life.

Yun Shu, cruelly rejected by her father for refusing to bind her feet, seeks solace as a Daoist nun.

Hsiung, enslaved by the Mongols when just a boy, becomes a ruthless rebel warlord determined to drive the invaders from his native land.

Teng, an artist and scholar, last son of a once noble family ruined by the new Mongol dynasty, risks his life to preserve the culture he reveres.

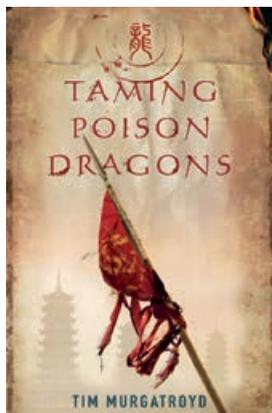
For the three friends to come together, they must endure war, treachery, greed and the casual abuse of power. To win honour and unexpected love they must overcome dangerous enemies and conflicts in the depths of their hearts.

Each of them, through clouds of troubles, must earn the Mandate of Heaven.

HB • 560 pages • ISBN 978-1-905802-78-4 • £16.99 • Publication date: 4th October 2013

TPB (Export Only) • 560 pages • ISBN 978-1-905802-82-1 • £12.99

PB • 640 pages • B format ISBN 978-1-905802-92-0 • Publication date: 16th September 2014
£8.99 • Rights held: Worldwide • Rights sold: Chinese



Taming Poison Dragons

TIM MURGATROYD

Western China, 1196:

Yun Cai, a handsome and adored poet in his youth, is now an old man, exiled to his family estates. All that is left to him are regrets of a growing sense of futility and helplessness and the irritations of his feckless son and shrewish daughter-in-law. But the 'poison dragons' of misfortune shatter his orderly existence.

First, Yun Cai's village is threatened with destruction by a vicious civil war. His wayward second son, a brutal rebel officer seems determined to ruin his entire family. Meanwhile, Yun Cai struggles to free an old friend, P'ei Ti, from a hellish prison – no easy task when P'ei Ti is the rebels' most valuable hostage and Yun Cai considers himself a spent and frightened old man.

Yun Cai is forced to reconsider all that he is and all that he has ever been in order to determine how to preserve his honour and all that he finds he still cherishes. Only then can he summon the wit and courage to confront the warlord General An-Shu and his beautiful but cruel consort, the Lady Ta-Chi.

'A riveting story.' JOHN GREEN, THE MORNING STAR

'An evocative and epic tale of love, honour and valour in the midst of civil war.' FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

PB • 640 pages • B format • ISBN 978-1-905802-3-95 • £8.99

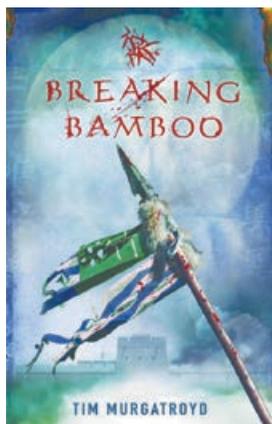
HB • 675 pages • ISBN 978-1-905802-28-9 • £16.99

TPB • 576 pages • ISBN 978-1-905802-30-2 • £12.99

Rights held: Worldwide

Rights sold: Chinese

Translation rights in this trilogy are being made available for the first time



Breaking Bamboo

TIM MURGATROYD

Breaking Bamboo is the second instalment of a trilogy set in Song and Yuan Dynasty China, charting the trials and adventures of the Yun clan.

Central China, 1264. When Mongol armies storm into the Middle Kingdom, the descendants of Yun Cai (*Taming Poison Dragons*) are trapped in a desperate siege that will determine the fate of the Empire. Guang and Shih are identical twins, one a heroic soldier idolised by the city he defends, the other a humble doctor. In the midst of war, jealous conflicts over Shih's wife and concubine threaten to tear the brothers apart. Enemies close in on every side – some disturbingly close to home. Can the Yun family survive imprisonment, ruthless treachery and Kublai Khan's bloody hordes? Or will their own reckless passions destroy them first?

'The author's knowledge of and love for this region and era are clear, and the reader is definitely immersed in the atmosphere and culture of the time. I recommend this to anyone interested in China and also anyone who feels like reading an interesting and well written tale of love, betrayal, war and difficult decisions.' HISTORICALNOVELSOCIETY.ORG

PB • 528 pages • B format • ISBN 978-1-905802-42-5 • £8.99

HB • 514 pages • ISBN 978-1-905802-40-1 • £16.99

TPB • 514 pages • ISBN 978-1-905802-38-8 • £12.99

Rights held: Worldwide

Rights sold: Chinese



End of Empires

TOBY FROST

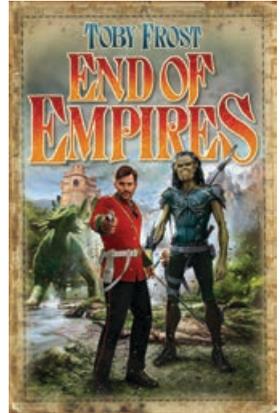
The fifth exciting instalment of the cult Space Captain Smith series.

The lemming men of Yullia are rushing headlong towards the cliffs of destiny, and they intend to take the British Space Empire with them. When moral fibre clashes with lemming spirit, only one thing is certain – surrender is no longer an option. In the back-streets of Ravnabar, greatest planet of the Space Empire, revolution stirs. Someone will have to go deep undercover, take on the robot underworld and reveal what lies behind the mysterious Popular Fist.

Worst of all, Major Wainscott – commando and nudist – has gone renegade in the most dangerous jungle in the galaxy. Someone will have to travel upriver, terminate Wainscott's command and make him put some trousers on.

That someone is Isambard Smith. Once more, Smith and his crew must leap into action, civilise the galaxy and force legions of angry rodents to stop their nonsense at once. Smith is destined to topple a mighty empire. The only question is – whose empire will it be?

**PB • 384 pages • B format • ISBN 978-1-905802-88-3
£7.99 • Rights held: Worldwide**



A Game of Battleships

TOBY FROST

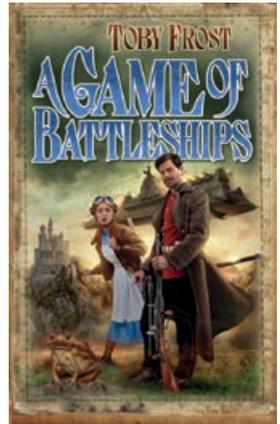
The latest instalment of The Chronicles of Isambard Smith, Captain in the service of the British Space Empire.

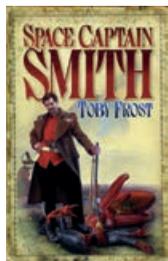
In the 25th Century the future of the galaxy rests on a knife edge. The actions of one man could save the British Space Empire, or leave Earth at the mercy of deadly legions of ant-people. That one man is Captain Isambard Smith, and Earth is in a lot of trouble.

After blowing up a top-secret base, Smith and his crew deserve a rest. But their holiday is cut short when forces unknown destroy the robot convoy they were meant to be guarding. Smith finds himself in hot pursuit of a mysterious vessel that can pass through dimensions, incurring the wrath of the dreaded Grand Witchfinder of New Eden – which would be so much easier if his pilot wasn't covering under the dashboard and his ship wasn't infested with man-eating toads.

Meanwhile, the Empire is gathering its allies to form a united front against alien tyranny. Unfortunately, the delicate negotiations have been entrusted to Major Wainscott, a man who knows no fear and very little about diplomacy or trousers. Once again, Captain Smith must summon all his courage to unite humanity behind the Empire. His quest will take him on a journey to face his greatest fears: from the depths of space, through Hell itself – and even to France.

**PB • 320 pages • B format • ISBN 978-1-905802-77-7 • Publication date: 8th August 2013
£7.99 • Rights held: Worldwide**





Space Captain Smith

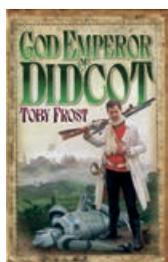
TOBY FROST

Spoof space adventure: an irreverent and wickedly funny pastiche of Biggles, Dan Dare, Star Wars and Blade Runner.

In the 25th Century the British Space Empire faces the gathering menace of the evil ant-soldiers of the Ghost Empire hive, hell-bent on galactic domination and the extermination of all humanoid life.

Isambard Smith is the square-jawed, courageous and somewhat asinine new commander of the clapped out and battle damaged light freighter *John Pym*, destined to take on the alien threat because nobody else is available. Together with his bold crew – a skull collecting alien lunatic, an android pilot who is actually a fugitive sex toy and a hamster called Gerald – he must collect new-age herbalist Rhianna Mitchell from the laid back New Francisco orbiter and bring her back to safety in the Empire. Straightforward enough – except the Ghosts want her too. If he is to get back to Blighty alive, Smith must defeat void sharks, a universe-weary android assassin and John Gilead, psychopathic naval officer from the fanatically religious Republic of New Eden before facing his greatest enemy: a ruthless alien warlord with a very large behind . . .

PB • 320 pages • B format • ISBN 978-1-905802-13-5 • £7.99
Rights held: Worldwide



God Emperor of Didcot

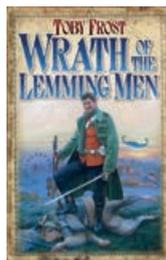
TOBY FROST

The second instalment in the chronicles of Isambard Smith – Captain in the service of the British Space Empire.

Tea . . . a beverage brewed from the fermented dried leaves of the shrub *Camellia sinensis* and imbibed by all the great civilisations in the galaxy's history; a source of refreshment, stimulation and, above all else, of *moral fibre* – without which the British Space Empire must surely crumble to leave Earth at the mercy of its enemies. Sixty per cent of the Empire's tea is grown on one world – Urn, principal planet of the Didcot system. If Earth is to keep fighting, the tea must flow!

When a crazed cult leader overthrows the government of Urn, Isambard Smith and his vaguely competent crew find themselves saddled with new allies: a legion of tea-obsessed nomads, an overly-civilised alien horde and a commando unit so elite that it only has five members. Only together can they defeat the self-proclaimed God Emperor of Didcot and confront the true power behind the coup: the sinister legions of the Ghost Empire and Smith's old enemy, Commander 462.

PB • 320 pages • B format • ISBN 978-1-905802-24-1 • £7.99
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Wrath of the Lemming Men

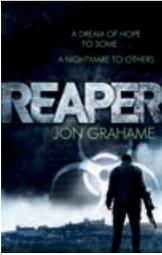
TOBY FROST

The third instalment in the chronicles of Isambard Smith – Captain in the service of the British Space Empire.

From the depths of Space a new foe rises to do battle with mankind: the British Space Empire is threatened by the lemming-people of Yull, ruthless enemies who attack without mercy, fear or any concept of self preservation. At the call of their war god, the Yull have turned on the Empire, hell bent on conquest and destruction in their rush towards the cliffs of destiny.

When the Yullian army is forced to retreat at the battle of the River Tam, the disgraced Colonel Vock swears revenge on the clan of Suruk the Slayer, Isambard Smith's homicidal alien friend. Now Smith and his crew must defend the Empire and civilise the stuffing out of a horde of bloodthirsty lemming men – which would be easy were it not for a sinister robotics company, a Ghost general with a fondness for genetic engineering and an ancient brotherhood of Morris Dancers – who may yet hold the key to victory. . .

PB • 320 pages • B format • ISBN 978-1-905802-35-7 • £7.99
Rights held: Worldwide



Reaper

JON GRAHAME

A down-at-heel, middle-aged ex-cop has nothing much to live for. But then he learns that the man who raped and killed his daughter has been released from prison after serving only three years. Obsessed with preparations for revenge, Jim Reaper is largely

indifferent to reports of what the world's media have labelled 'SuperSARS', a virulent pandemic spreading swiftly westwards from China.

Reaper slaughters his daughter's killer and finds himself in a police cell. But there'll be no trial for Reaper; the fabric of law enforcement and of organised society itself is already in terminal decline as 98% of Britain's population succumb to severe flu-like symptoms. As the last of Reaper's custodians leaves his post to take to his bed he leaves Reaper the keys to the cell.

Days later, when Reaper finally emerges, he walks the city streets for hours without seeing anyone – and then he spots three men, armed with shotguns and dragging a teenage girl from a dog-collar and chain. Reaper returns to the station to collect a Kevlar vest, two handguns and a Heckler and Koch carbine...

PB • 348 pages • B format • ISBN 978-1-905802-52-4 • £7.99
Rights held: Worldwide



Angel

JON GRAHAME

"I'm 18, going on death... and this is the age of terror."

Months since the virulent flu-like pandemic known as 'SuperSARS' wiped out 98% of the world's population, Britain has become a place of chaos, carnage and terror for the few survivors.

After its bloody confrontation with the murderous paramilitaries of 'Muldane's Army', The North Yorkshire community of 'Haven' licks its wounds. Both Jim Reaper and Sandra Hinchliffe harbour the pain of having lost loved ones in the conflict. More people are flocking to the sanctuary. They bring new skills and the hopes of finding peace and security and a return to civilisation.

But Reaper knows that just as decent people are coming together in ever-greater numbers and with more

sophisticated technology, so too, inevitably, are the predators, and the deprived. And so Reaper and Sandra venture abroad seeking early intelligence of the threats that lie over the horizon while dealing with evil wherever they find it, and in the only way they know how.

But Sandra is no longer an apprentice: the loss of her husband has turned her hard, efficient and ruthless. Across the isolated settlements a modern legend spreads. It speaks of the Angel of Death.

PB • 348 pages • B format • ISBN 978-1-905802-84-5 • Publication Date: 18th March 2014 £7.99 • Rights held: Worldwide



Redemption

JON GRAHAME

The final, climactic volume of Jon Grahame's hard-boiled apocalyptic Reaper trilogy.

It's been a year since the virulent flu-like pandemic known as 'SuperSARS' wiped out over 98% of the world's population turning Britain into a land of chaos,

carnage and terror for the few survivors.

Ex-cop, Jim Reaper and his small band of trained 'enforcers' have successfully defended the little community of Haven that Reaper founded in North Yorkshire and it has become the hub of trade and co-operation between the dozens of peaceful settlements that comprise most of what's left of northern England.

But not only the hopeful and the decent are coming together in ever-greater numbers. To the north, the city of Newcastle has become invested by a feral horde that Reaper knows will sooner or later turn rapacious gaze towards Haven and the communities under its protection. To the south is a regime called Redemption that claims to be the new seat of British government – claiming Prince Harry as its patron and with a full battalion of regular soldiers to enforce its authority.

Reaper decides that what is happening in the south can no longer be ignored and, together with his ruthless young protégé, Sandra Hinchliffe, sets off to learn about Redemption for himself. Reaper and Sandra are soon embroiled in a bloody struggle for power that threatens to engulf and then enslave most of the country.

And then, with Reaper and Sandra far from Haven, the feral horde takes to the road.

PB • 384 pages • B format • ISBN 978-1-905802-86-9 £7.99 • Rights held: Worldwide



'An elegant and haunting novel of war, art and memory . . . its beauty never comes to rest.' INDEPENDENT

'Complex and powerful . . . a sophisticated and satisfying novel that explores the ways time reconfigures memory.'

SUNDAY TIMES

'This book is to be kept and re-read and revered for its elegant, lyrical prose, for its glorification of art and maybe too, its inspiration to build our own Japanese garden.'

RED ONLINE

'It is impossible to resist the opening sentence of this sumptuously produced, Booker-longlisted novel . . . This novel ticks many boxes:

its themes are serious, its historic grounding solid, its structure careful, its old-fashioned ornamentalism respectable.'

GUARDIAN

'A beautiful, dark and wistful exploration of loss and remembrance that will stay with you long after reading.'

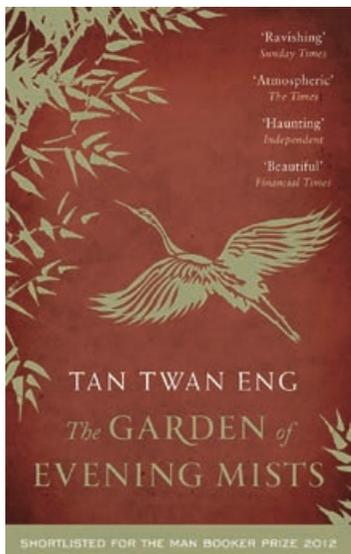
DAILY TELEGRAPH

'Beautifully written... Tan is simply one of the best novelists writing today.'

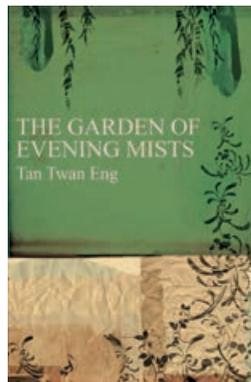
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Canongate Books www.canongate.tv



Hardback Edition

The Garden of Evening Mists

TAN TWAN ENG

Shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize 2012

Winner of the Man Asia Prize 2012

Winner of the Walter Scott Prize for Best Historical Novel 2013

On a mountain above the clouds in the central highlands of Malaya lived the man who had been the gardener of the Emperor of Japan...

Teoh Yun Ling was seventeen years old when she first heard about him, but a war would come and a decade would pass before she would journey to see him. A survivor of a brutal Japanese camp, she has spent the last few years helping to prosecute Japanese war criminals.

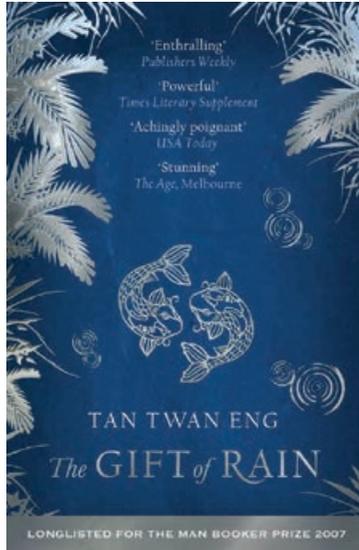
Despite her hatred of the Japanese, she asks the gardener, Nakamura Aritomo, to create a memorial garden for her sister who died in the camp. He refuses, but agrees to accept Yun Ling as his apprentice 'until the monsoon' so that she can design a garden herself.

As Yun Ling works in the Garden of Evening Mists, another war is raging in the hills and jungles beyond. The Malayan Emergency is entering its darkest days; communist guerrillas are murdering planters, miners and their families, seeming to take over the country by any means, while the Malayan nationalists are fighting for independence from centuries of British colonial rule.

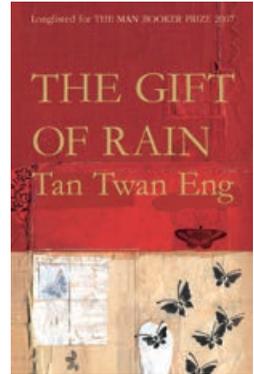
But who is Nakamura Aritomo, and how did he come to be exile from his homeland? And is Yun Ling's survival of the Japanese camp somehow connected to Aritomo and the Garden of Evening Mists?

PB • 352 pages • ISBN 978-1-782110-18-7 • £8.99
HB • 352 pages • ISBN 978-1-905802-49-4 • £18.99
TPB • 352 pages • ISBN 978-1-905802-05-0 • £12.99

Rights held: UK and Commonwealth (ex Canada) and EU in English



B Format Paperback Edition



Hardback Edition

'An easy pleasure to read... Yes, there are moral and political complexities, but Tan Twan Eng generally deals with them with disarming lightness. Plus, his prose... is smooth and often even delicate.' SAM JORDISON, GUARDIAN.CO.UK

'Unusually clever and evocative... tragic tale of love and betrayal beautifully told.' GEELONG ADVERTISER

'The novel reveals an emotional depth coupled with a heartfelt exploration of a dramatic moment in a community's history... A richly rewarding read.' WILHELM SNYMAN, CAPE TIMES

'A remarkable book... about war, friendship, memory and discipline.' IAN MCMILLAN, BBC RADIO 3

The Gift of Rain

TAN TWAN ENG

Longlisted for the Man Booker Prize 2007

Penang, 1939. Sixteen-year-old Philip Hutton is a loner. Half English, half Chinese and feeling neither, he discovers a sense of belonging in an unexpected friendship with Hayato Endo, a Japanese diplomat. Philip shows his new friend around his adored island of Penang, and in return Endo trains him in the art and discipline of aikido.

But such knowledge comes at a terrible price. The enigmatic Endo is bound by disciplines of his own and when the Japanese invade Malaya, threatening to destroy Philip's family and everything he loves, he realises that his trusted sensei – to whom he owes absolute loyalty – has been harbouring a devastating secret.

With masterful and gorgeous narrative, replete with exotic and captivating images, sounds and aromas, Tan Twan Eng weaves a haunting and unforgettable story of betrayal, barbaric cruelty, steadfast courage and enduring love.

'A powerful first novel about a tumultuous and almost forgotten period of history.' THE TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT

'A remarkable book... about war, friendship, memory and discipline.'

IAN MCMILLAN, THE VERB, BBC RADIO 3

PB • 512 pages • B format • ISBN 978-1-905802-14-2 • £8.99

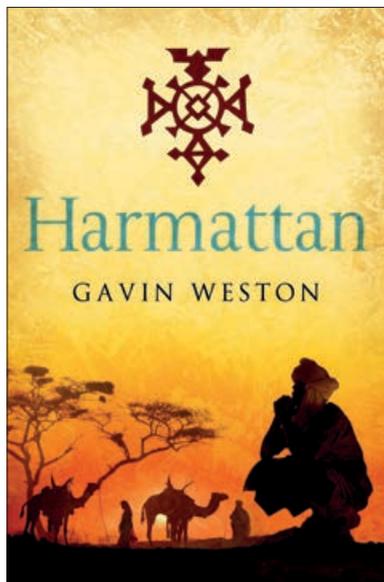
HB • 448 pages • ISBN 978-1-905802-04-3 • £18.99

Rights held: UK and Commonwealth (ex Canada) and EU in English



'Weston weaves a brilliantly detailed and dramatic story full of haunting images and unforgettable characters... a vivid and visceral reminder that for some, the promised land is still a distant country.'

LANCASHIRE EVENING POST



Belfast-born Gavin Weston is a multi-media artist, writer, lecturer and inventor and lives on the Ards Peninsula with his family, parrot and various other animals. He studied Fine Art at Saint Martin's School of Art and Design and Goldsmiths' College, London, and subsequently worked and taught in West Africa.

'Weston's first novel captures a time and a place, from the beauty of Niger's vistas to the inhumanity of its patriarchal culture. The latter will arouse outrage, as will the restrictions posed by an NGO that is there to help. This is fiction that conveys truth more vividly than fact.'

MICHELE LEBER

'Harmattan is a captivating and beautifully written debut novel. Gavin Weston's unique and distinctive style hails a new era in Northern Irish literature.'

KELLIE CHAMBERS,
ULSTER TATLER

Harmattan

GAVIN WESTON

Set against the stark beauty of sub-Saharan West Africa, Harmattan is evocative and heart wrenching. Suffused with an anger that is all the more powerful for its masterful understatement, Harmattan is a well-written novel that is both commercially appealing and a savage indictment of child marriage.

Haoua is a young girl growing up in a remote village in the Republic of Niger. Spirited independent and intelligent, she has benefited from a stable home life and a loving and attentive mother and enjoys working and playing with her siblings and friends.

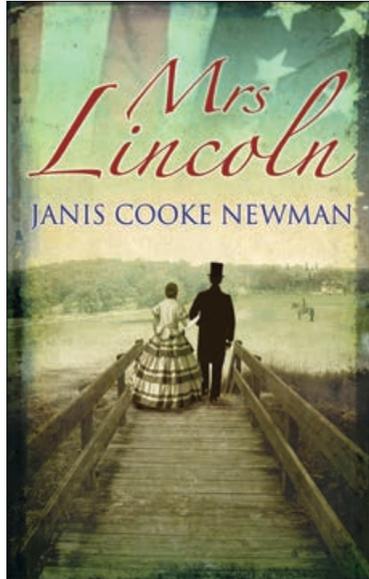
Haoua worships her elder brother, Abdelkrim, a serving soldier who sends money home to support the family. But, on his last home visit, Abdelkrim quarrels with their father accusing him of gambling away the money he sends and being the cause of their mother's worsening health. It also emerges that their father plans to take a second wife.

Despite this, Haoua finds contentment in her schoolwork, her dreams of becoming a teacher and in writing assiduously to the family in Ireland who act as her aid sponsors.

But for Haoua, there are new storm clouds on the horizon: as civil strife mounts in Niger, she begins to fear for Abdelkrim's safety; her mother's illness is much more serious and further advanced than anyone had recognised; and her father's plans are turning out to be far more threatening than she could have ever imagined.

Approaching her twelfth birthday, Haoua feels alone and vulnerable for the very first time in her life.

PB • 400 pages • B format • ISBN 978-1-905802-75-3 • £8.99
Rights held: Worldwide • Rights sold: Turkish



"...a moving story of former First Lady, Mary Todd Lincoln, an intelligent and unconventional woman."

WASHINGTON WOMAN

"Throughout the novel, an underlying sensuality humanizes the prose and makes Mary seem incongruous to the formal Victorian time period in which she lived...It is a skilful characterization that makes [the Lincolns'] relationship together seem inevitable and unforced."

OMAHA CITY WEEKLY

"...thoughtful and thoroughly enjoyable...Mary is not only a fascinating read, but also a touching love story."

CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

"...mesmerizing...a gripping read that vividly portrays history in a way we all wish our high school history teachers had. Grade: A."

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

Mrs Lincoln

JANIS COOKE NEWMAN

Published in the US under the title *Mary*, this bestselling novel was USA Today's Best Historical Fiction of the Year, and a Los Angeles Times Book Prize Finalist.

(May 20th)

Mrs Mary Lincoln admitted today – from Chicago – Age 56 – Widow of ex-President Lincoln – declared insane by the Cook County Court May 19th – 1875.

Patient Progress Reports for Bellevue Place Sanatorium.

Incarcerated in an insane asylum after committal proceedings instigated by her own son, Mary Lincoln resolves to tell her own story in order to preserve and to prove her own sanity.

"...this epic drama exerts an exceptional pull... an impressive, engrossing and moving piece of historical imagining and characterisation."

HOLLY KYTE, THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH

"...a tender and thoughtful portrait of a 19th century woman severely misunderstood... Mrs Lincoln unfolds with plenty to inspire and is all the more poignant for a timely arrival."

SARAH EMILY MIANO, THE TIMES

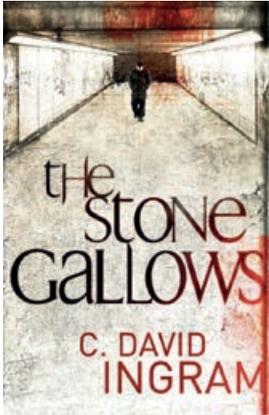
In this, the year of Spielberg's *Lincoln* and an upsurge of interest in the iconic US president and his redoubtable wife, for whom the title 'First Lady' was invented, translation rights are made available for the first time.

PB • 640 pages • B format • ISBN 978-1-905802-21-0 • £8.99

HB • 576 pages • ISBN 978-1-905802-10-4 • £16.99

TPB • 576 pages • ISBN 978-1-905802-11-1 • £12.99

Rights held: UK and Commonwealth in English and full translation rights.



The Stone Gallows

C. DAVID INGRAM

"I guess the end justifies the means. At least that's what I believe. Most of the time"

DC Cameron Stone spent three months in intensive care before he could recall what happened: the high speed pursuit through the night streets of Glasgow that took the life of a teenage mother and her child. Then the message from Audrey that she had left him and taken their young son, Mark, with her. Booze, anti-depressants and therapy have all failed to enable him to resume his old job.

So now Stone lives in a one-room flat in the worst part of town. He pays the rent by running errands for a private detective. He's also paid by his former colleagues, doing the work that's not quite clean enough for them to do themselves – like putting the fear of God into any local scumbag who thinks he can't be touched.

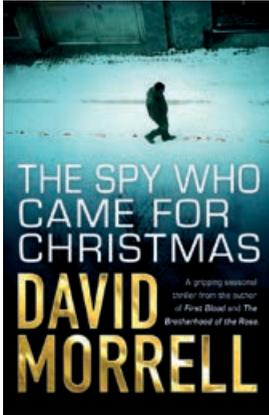
It's been a bad week. Audrey has moved into the plush home of a plastic surgeon: and is getting difficult about access to Mark. There's the knife wielding kids on the stairs outside his flat and the daubing on his front door: Burn in Hell Baby Killer.

But things are about to get worse for Cameron Stone... Somebody out there is out to destroy him and everything he loves – unless he can get to them first!

"This great first book makes me want to read the next instalment – Ingram having promised some interesting times ahead for Cameron Stone." PAUL BLACKBURN, EUROCRIME

PB • 384 pages • B format • ISBN 978-1-905802-20-3 • £7.99
Rights held: Worldwide • Rights sold: Spanish

"There were some stunning debuts this year, but if I had to pick one it would be this world class Scottish thriller."
SHARI LOW, THE DAILY RECORD



The Spy Who Came for Christmas

DAVID MORRELL

On Christmas Eve in snow-covered Santa Fe, tens of thousands of pedestrians stroll through the festively decorated streets. Among them is Paul Kagan, a spy on the run trying desperately to protect a precious package that just might be the key to a lasting peace in the Middle East. He is pursued closely by three extremely dangerous men, members of the Russian mafia whom he has just betrayed.

Kagan seeks refuge in a quiet house on the outskirts of the town. Inside is a woman and her 12-year-old son, hiding from other evils and whom he has now put in mortal danger as his hunters manage to track him down. In the tense hours that follow, Kagan tries to calm the woman and the boy by telling them the spy's version of the traditional Nativity story as he prepares the house for the onslaught he knows to be coming. . .

'Master storyteller David Morrell gives us an amazing holiday classic that thrills us with heart-pounding suspense while tugging at our emotions.' TESS GERRITSON, BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *THE BONE GARDEN*

'...the father of the modern action novel delivers a unique, edge-of-your seat thriller with amazing twists and riveting characters.'
VINCE FLYNN, BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *POWER PLAY*

PB • 256 pages • B format • ISBN 978-1-905802-18-0 • £7.99
Rights held: UK and Commonwealth in English



The Painted Messiah

CRAIG SMITH

Legend speaks of an image of Christ, painted from life on Pilate's orders. Somewhere it survives, promising everlasting life to those who possess it.

Wealthy young English widow, Kate Kenyon, and antique bookseller, Ethan Brand, get their thrills from armed robbery. Their latest target is a priceless 'Byzantine' icon shut up in a lakeside chateau in Switzerland. Until now, they've never had to shoot anyone. This time will be different.

Retired CIA man, TK Malloy, is hired by a rich but ailing televangelist to courier his newly acquired painting from a Zurich bank to the airport. Malloy anticipates trouble, but not the maelstrom of bullets and betrayal that threatens to pull him under.

Sir Julian Corbeau is an international criminal, holed up in Switzerland to avoid US extradition. He is also the sadistic head of the modern Knights Templar. He had the painting and now he wants it back – as well as to exact a bloody revenge on those who stole it.

As the contenders vie for possession, the bullets fly and the body count rises. The secrets of the painting gradually unfold to reveal how an object depicting the Light of the World could exert so malign an influence on all who touch it.

PB • 400 pages • B format • ISBN 978-1-905802-15-9 • £7.99

HB • 320 pages • ISBN 978-1-905802-06-7 • £16.99

TPB • 320 pages • ISBN 978-1-905802-07-4 • £11.99

Rights held: Worldwide (ex German translation)

Rights sold: Italian, French, Turkish, Spanish, Russian, Czech, German, Greek, Polish and Chinese

The Blood Lance

CRAIG SMITH

The sizzling sequel to *The Painted Messiah*

Kufstein, Austria, 1939

At the foot of a mountain lies an SS officer with his neck broken. Known to history as Otto Rahn, Himmler's own grail hunter, his quest for the legendary 'Blood Lance' has set in motion a cycle of violence that will last for seventy years.

Switzerland, 1997

Lady Katherine Kenyon celebrates her honeymoon on the slopes of the Eiger with her husband, Lord Robert Kenyon, financier and member of the philanthropic 'Knights of the Holy Lance'. Attacked by unknown assailants, she is left for dead, widowed and with a burning thirst for vengeance.

New York City, 2008

When a billionaire fraudster cuts loose from the US, TK Malloy is assigned to hunt him down. The trail leads to the mysterious 'Knights of the Holy Lance' and his friends Kate and Ethan Brand. Malloy seeks his man; Kate her husband's killer. Their first step is to kidnap a corrupt Hamburg lawyer from his home. Things don't quite run to plan and then all hell breaks loose...

PB • 384 pages • B format • ISBN 978-1-905802-29-6 • £7.99

HB • 384 pages • ISBN 978-1-905802-22-7 • £16.99

TPB • 384 pages • ISBN 978-1-905802-23-4 • £11.99

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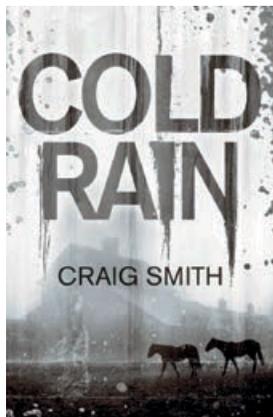


'A marvellously thrilling book. . . the distinction between villain and hero is constantly blurred. . . a most enthralling story.' PAUL DOHERTY, AUTHOR OF THE HUGH CORBETT MYSTERIES



'Seamlessly mixing history, legend and fiction Smith's writing is both intelligent and exhilarating. His characters are alive, and the twists and turns of the several plots will keep readers breathless.'

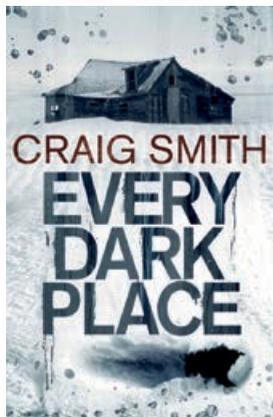
HISTORICAL NOVELS REVIEW



Cold Rain makes for an absolute gem of a surprise. This is good solid, atmospheric writing piled with suspense and tension.'

CRIMEFICTIONREADER, REVIEWING FOR IT'S A CRIME (OR A MYSTERY...)

'The plot twists and then twists again. Every time I thought I'd got hold of it, it sprang away... it's the sort of lean writing that's hard to put down.' SUSAN MAGEE, REVIEWING FOR THEBOOKBAG.



Cold Rain

CRAIG SMITH

Shortlisted for the CWA Ian Fleming Steel Dagger for Best Thriller in 2011

'I turned thirty-seven that summer, older than Dante when he toured Hell, but only by a couple of years...'

Life couldn't be better for David Albo, an associate professor of English at a small mid-western university. He lives in an idyllic, out-of-town, plantation-style mansion with a beautiful and intelligent wife and an adoring teenage stepdaughter. As he returns to the university after a long and relaxing sabbatical, there's a full professorship in the offing – and, what's more, he's managed to stay off the booze for two whole years.

But, once term begins, things deteriorate rapidly. The damning evidence that he has sexually harassed his students is just the beginning as Dave finds himself sucked into a vortex of conspiracy, betrayal, jealousy and murder. Unless he can discover quickly who is out to destroy him, all that he is and loves is about to be stripped away.

PB • 320 pages • B format • ISBN 978-1-905802-34-0 • £7.99

Rights held: Worldwide (ex German translation)

Rights sold: Italian, Turkish and German

Every Dark Place

CRAIG SMITH

Ten years ago, sleepy Shiloh Springs was shaken as five teenagers were clubbed and shot to death...

But now Will Booker's conviction for the crime has been overturned after allegations that his rights were violated on arrest.

Rick Trueblood, careworn private investigator working for the county prosecutor's office, still grieves for a daughter murdered in a crime he has never been able to solve. The judge has allowed just sixty days for the prosecutor's office to find enough evidence to retry the Booker case. But as Rick struggles with a trail long gone cold, he uncovers a rat's nest of intrigue and duplicity with ramifications that lead far closer to home than he could have possibly imagined.

Out on bail, Booker plots the kidnap and murder of two adolescent girls while the local authorities follow procedures and file reports. Rick, on the other hand has learned something about the way Booker thinks.

In the desperate hours that follow, Rick must recover both his instinct for the hunt and a renewed passion for life.

A terrifying tale of search and rescue, madness and redemption.

'A dark and terrifying crime becomes the unlikely catalyst for one man's redemption and another's ruin in another stylish noir thriller from the author of Cold Rain.' GOODREADS.COM

PB • 320 pages • B format • ISBN 978-1-905802-53-1 • £7.99

Rights held: Worldwide (ex German translation)

Rights sold: Italian, Turkish and German



Hope Against Hope

SALLY ZIGMOND

Longlisted for the RNA Best Romantic Novel 2010

Stoical and industrious Carrie and carefree and vivacious May lose both home and livelihood when their Leeds pub is sold out from under them to make way for the coming of the railway. They head for Harrogate to find work and lodging in the spa town's burgeoning hotel trade. But the sisters fall prey to fraudsters and predators and are also driven apart by misunderstanding, pride and a mutual sense of betrayal and resentment. May's fate is a high-class brothel from which her escape leads only to hunger in the slums of Paris. Carrie becomes a virtual slave to the vicious hostess of a filthy boarding house and the victim of her vindictive son.

Carrie and May are estranged for several years. There seems little hope of reconciliation or of either of them finding love and lasting happiness. But this is 1848, the 'Year of Revolutions'. The streets of Paris erupt in bloody insurrection... while Alex Sinclair is commissioned to bring the railway to Harrogate.

'The novel is packed with misunderstandings, betrayals and resentments. . . The reader is pulled into the lives of the well-drawn characters, with plenty of heart stopping moments. It is a tense, gripping page-turner.' HISTORICALNOVELSOCIETY.ORG

PB • 448 pages • B format • ISBN 978-1-905802-19-7 • £7.99

Rights held: Worldwide

Rights sold: Turkish



The de Lacy Inheritance

ELIZABETH ASHWORTH

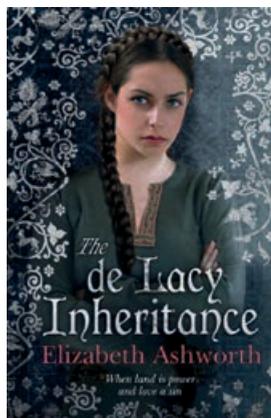
Young Richard Fitz-Eustace's return from Palestine is far from joyous. Damned by leprosy he must bid his mother, grandmother and sisters a final and sorrowful farewell and leave his estates at Halton Castle forever. Condemned to shun the company of others he must now find a place of solitude where he can seek forgiveness for sins committed in the Holy Land for which he is certain he has earned God's curse. Resolved to live out his life as a hermit, he journey's north into the newly named county of Lancashire. But this is no arbitrary journey; there is one last obligation undertaken for his grandmother: that he will seek out her kinsman, Sir Robert de Lacy, at Cliderhou Castle and there press his consideration of her claim to his estate.

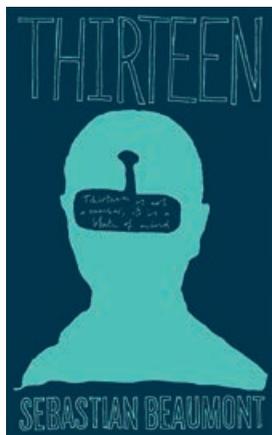
Meanwhile, at Halton, Richard's headstrong fourteen-year-old sister, Johanna is distraught. The fate of her beloved elder brother has done more than leave her bereft. Her other brother, ruthless and ambitious Roger has returned to take his place as head of the family. He and Johanna's mother have contrived a marriage for her to a wealthy old landowner, and without Richard's protection there seems little she can do about it – unless of course she can escape and find him.

'This is an appealing tale of daily life in the 12th century. The subject of lepers and their place in the community is fascinating. Although not billed as a young adult novel, I feel The de Lacy Inheritance would especially suit this particular market.' HISTORICALNOVELSOCIETY.ORG

PB • 256 pages • B format • ISBN 978-1-905802-36-4 • £7.99

Rights held: Worldwide





Thirteen

SEBASTIAN BEAUMONT

Thirteen is the story of Stephen Bardot, a taxi driver working on the night shift in Brighton. He works such long shifts that he is often driving while exhausted, and it is then that he starts to experience major alterations to his perception of reality. People start to take lifts in his cab who know things they shouldn't, and who ultimately may not even be real, although the question of what constitutes reality forms one of the basic themes of the novel.

He regularly gives lifts to Valerie – beautiful, haunting, but terminal – from 13 Wish Road to her 'positive thinking classes'. When he is no longer asked to collect her, he fears that she is dead, and queries this with Sal, one of the night operators. Apparently, there is no such address as 13 Wish Road.

As time passes, the world gets weirder. People appear (and disappear) who know far too much about Stephen and his past, and who lure him further and further into the twilight world of Thirteen. But Thirteen has no intention of letting him go...

'Sebastian Beaumont's novel Thirteen is the best thing I have read this year and one of the two or three finest books I have come across since the new century kicked in.' SCOTT PACK, THE FRIDAY PROJECT AND FORMER HEAD BUYER AT WATERSTONES

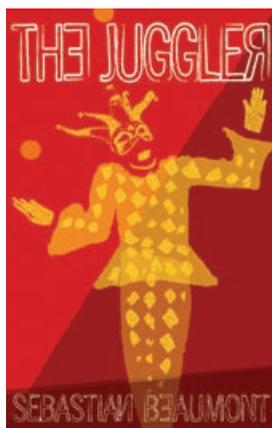
'Sebastian Beaumont pulls off two impressive feats in his first novel. He writes a colloquial, first-person narrative that is consistently engaging; and he creates a dreamlike, alternate world without stretching the reader's credulity or patience.' NICHOLAS CLEE, THE GUARDIAN

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HB • 256 pages • ISBN 978-1-905802-02-9 • £13.99

TPB • 256 pages • ISBN 978-1-905802-03-06 • £9.99

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The Juggler

SEBASTIAN BEAUMONT

Mark did what people aren't supposed to do. He left his home, his job, his wife, his friends, his seven month old baby... everything. He set out with only two things. One was a flyer advertising a nightclub, with an address written on the back in spidery pencil. The other was a small, hard bag of the sort that photographers carry their lenses in. But this bag did not contain photographic equipment. It contained £40,000 in cash.

But it is not so easy to start again. Mark must find his way in a new town where no one will talk about their past, and where mobile phones don't work. He soon discovers that this is not all that's strange about this nameless town. Friendships turn into a web of deceit and motives are always suspect. Mark's journey, both physical and metaphysical, takes him through layers of reality and towards refuge of an unexpected kind.

'A dramatic and vividly written second novel by a talented young writer his is a must read – top stuff.' CULTURECOMPASS.CO.UK

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TPB • 272 pages • ISBN 978-1-905802-27-2 • £9.99

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'Sebastian Beaumont's debut novel Thirteen blew me away when I read it a couple of years ago. . . Beaumont's follow-up book, The Juggler, quite literally caught me by surprise. If this book turned out to be half as good as its predecessor then I was in for quite a ride. I braced myself accordingly. And a good job too for The Juggler isn't half as good as Thirteen. It is better.' SCOTT PACK, MEANDMYBIGMOUT.BLOGSPOT

MEANDMYBIGMOUT.BLOGSPOT



Once, Two Islands

DAWN GARISCH

On the larger of two islands in the southern Atlantic seas, a baby girl is born one dark winter's day. But Gulai's mother dies soon after giving birth and her father, Dr Orion Prosper, the only medical doctor on the island, blames himself.

For days afterwards he stays locked in his room, refusing to talk to anyone. But Gulai never stops crying and her aunt is forced to seek advice from Sophia, the island's other healer, in secret. Thus begins Gulai's life on Ergo Island – betraying her father a mere ten days after her birth and becoming inextricably linked to the traditions he is working to eradicate.

Left to make her own sense of the world around her, Gulai is curious to learn more about the 'witch' the islanders publicly revile but privately visit, the 'madness' which drove a young woman to her death and the secrets which lie at the heart of all their lives.

'Enchanting blend of ancient folklore and modern dilemmas... Garisch is good, very good... I eagerly await her next endeavour.' THE WEEKENDER

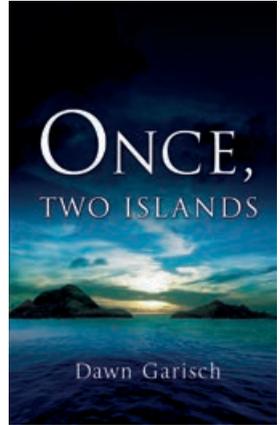
'...a rollicking good read, full of excitement, drama and imagination... but it is also filled with beautiful imagery, fine musical language... There is much here in this novel to enjoy and to admire.'

MMEGI/THE REPORTER, BOTSWANA

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The Matron

DAWN GARISCH

In the mid 1950s, lonely middle-aged spinster, Phyllis, has spent much of her adult life caring for her ailing mother. On her mother's death, she takes a position as a matron at an exclusive Cape Town boarding school.

She begins to keep a journal of her daily encounters and experiences – something she has not done since the age of sixteen, before falling pregnant by her cousin and being forced to give the child up for adoption. As she tries to settle into her new life, Phyllis remains haunted by her secret guilt and shame. Then a new boy is enrolled into the school and Phyllis becomes convinced he is her grandson. Michael, small and vulnerable, quickly becomes a victim of bullying and Phyllis finds a renewed purpose in seeing to his comfort and protection. But the purpose she has found for herself will have consequences more devastating than ever she could have imagined.

'Nothing in the world could have prepared me for the ending of this book. Garisch settles you in for a relaxing gentle, but sad story and then, just as you are comfortable, she smacks you over the back of the head with a baseball bat. I am not sure if I am shocked, horrified or just over-reacting. I may just have to read this book again and again.'

NANCY HILARY, THE WRITE CREW

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Bulletproof Suzy

IAN BROTHERHOOD

Bulletproof Suzy is a gritty, urban tale: a story of violence and drug abuse in the tradition of *Trainspotting* and *A Clockwork Orange*. There is much humour and tragedy to be found within its pages too – as well as a subtle and yet powerful message about how the increasingly invasive and unscrupulous machinery of the state threatens to trap us all.

A government initiative to deal with increasing opposition to unpopular council tax rises contracts bands of citizen volunteers to collect payment. Francine O’Brallahan aka Bulletproof Suzy, a highly intelligent though somewhat violent member of the urban underclass, recruits three other young females, her ‘little ladies’, to exploit the opportunity to earn enough cash to find a better life.

When a friend of Suzy’s is found brutally murdered, Suzy herself remains the prime suspect and there appears to be damning video evidence to back up the theory; there is a menacing new gang infiltrating Suzy’s neighbourhood – they’re numerous, sophisticated and armed to the teeth... and they’re after Suzy’s blood.

‘This is an ambitious, powerful novel from an important new voice.’

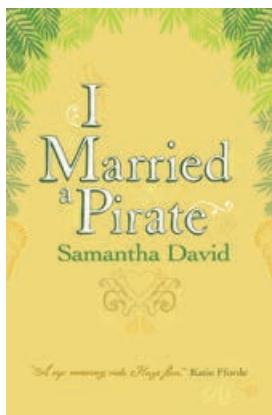
JULES HORNE

‘Brotherhood... demonstrates a unique view and flair for action.’

MICHAEL STOTTER, SHOTSMAG

HB • 256 pages • ISBN 978-1-905802-00-5 • £13.99

TPB • 256 pages • ISBN 978-1-905802-01-2 • £9.99 • Rights held: Worldwide



I Married a Pirate

SAMANTHA DAVID

When Camilla bumped into the Pirate on the net, she never dreamed that she’d fall in love with him. He was old, fat and irascible. He wasn’t Errol Flynn. For his part the Pirate didn’t give a bugger what she thought. She was beautiful and he was old enough to be optimistic about life. So he inveigled her onto his pirate ship in the Caribbean...

She finds that her Pirate is real enough: he sails a sixty-foot ketch, has a loyal crew and makes a living from smuggling, racketeering and things that Camilla would rather not think about. But Johnny Depp he certainly ain’t!

The Pirate is the most outrageous lover in literary history, and Camilla is adorable, intelligent, brave and nutty. Together they inhabit a bohemian world of musicians and artists, buccaneers and eccentrics that will seduce you and leave you gasping for more.

Laugh-aloud-funny, adventurous, romantic and filled with sunshine, *I Married a Pirate* is escapism with a capital ‘E’.

‘A rip-roaring ride. Huge fun and a really interesting new voice.’ KATIE FFORDE

‘Pure joy – this unlikely romance between the phlegmatic Camilla and her atypical pirate lover sizzles from start to finish.’

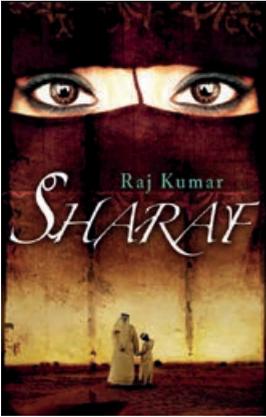
TRISHA ASHLEY

‘A swashbuckling lesson to us all... Samantha David got me hook, line and sinker.’ GUARDIAN ABROAD

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'a searing and realistic portrait of an oil-rich land caught between ancient codes, overwhelming wealth and the romantic desires of a beautiful Saudi woman... powerful and compelling.'

JEAN SASSON, AUTHOR OF *PRINCESS AND LOVE IN A TORN LAND*

Sharaf

RAJ KUMAR

Major General Farhan Al-Balawi is a loyal soldier in the Saudi Arabian army who dotes on his beloved daughter, Maryam, his pride in her learning and independent spirit sharpened by the death of his elder son and his estrangement from the younger who has opted to pursue a hedonistic western lifestyle in the USA.

Despite the love she shares with her family, her respect for her father, the pride she takes in her Arabian heritage and her loyalty to Islam, Maryam yearns for travel and the opportunity to continue her education in a European university.

But then Farhan announces that Maryam is to marry – the fulfilment of a solemn promise made before Maryam was born and to a man who once saved Farhan's life – that Farhan's daughter would one day marry his old army comrade's son. Maryam endeavours to stifle her bitter disappointment, and to honour her father's wishes she complies with the betrothal.

Then she meets Joe, an American dentist – and a Jew.

As Joe and Maryam pursue an increasingly intimate clandestine relationship they dare to dream of freedom and of a life together. But Joe is gradually drawing the attention of the Muttawa, the feared religious police, and when Maryam realises that she is pregnant it is then that her trials really begin.

'Kumar has done a superb job of wrapping it all up in a rattling good yarn, producing a book worth reading.' THEBOOKBAG.CO.UK

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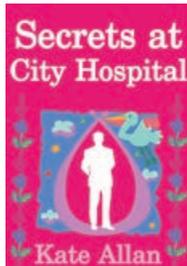


A Computer Guy for Christmas

CHRISSIE LOVEDAY

Harry lucks out at the office Christmas party when Jasmine notices him. He's fancied her for ages but she's gorgeous and he's just the computer guy. Will it last or was it just a quick fling under the mistletoe?

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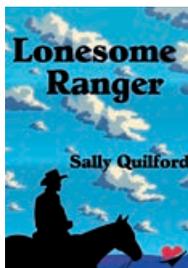


Secrets at City Hospital

KATE ALLAN

On Rachel's first day on duty as doctor in a busy maternity department, the last thing she needs is the spark of attraction for capable male midwife, Grant. She can't help falling for Grant even though it becomes clear he's hiding something.

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ELAINE EVEREST

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