

# Foreign Rights Newsletter

July 2016



**united agents**

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# Stop Press

## WHITE BODIES by Jane Robins

This isn't just a brilliant psychological thriller.

This isn't just a great novel for women.

This isn't just an utterly compelling fiction debut.

**This is a simply mesmerising, gripping, unforgettable story.**

We are thrilled to be handling Jane Robins' debut novel which Natasha Fairweather has just sold on the basis of a six figure pre-empt to Lisa Milton, Executive Publisher at the new HarperCollins publishing division HQ. They will publish as a lead title in their Autumn list for 2017.

French rights have already been pre-empted by Sonatine and Dutch rights by Prometheus and we are in the process of an Italian auction.

Felix Nordberg is a man who appears to have everything. Young, handsome and rich, he is successful at work and newly-married to Tilda Farrow, a celebrated young actress who looks perfect by his side. But hidden inside him is a dark secret: a congenital heart defect which fells this powerful young man as he returns to his conference hotel from a morning run. So far, so tragic...

But everything is not as it seems. At his funeral Callie, Tilda's twin sister, sits at the back of the church as watchful and guarded as she has been since she met him. For she has seen her beautiful, talented sister visibly shrink and diminish under the domineering love of Felix. Tilda has stopped working and pretty much stopped eating. Her flat is freakishly clean and tidy, with mugs wrapped in cling film and worrying syringes in the bathroom bin. And some things have been broken as a result of Felix's uncontrollable rage. So worried is Callie by the psychological hold that Felix seems to have on her sister that she has joined an internet support group – [controllingmen.com](http://controllingmen.com) – for the victims and families of women enduring abuse from their partners. And when one of Callie's new internet friends is killed by an abusive man things start to spiral out of control.

WHITE BODIES is a dazzling, page-turning reworking of *Strangers on a Train* for the internet age. It is a psychological thriller about the dark side of love and the unbreakable ties that link twins.

Jane Robins began her career as a journalist with The Economist, The Independent and the BBC. She has made a specialty of writing historical true crime and has a particular interest in the history of forensics. She has published three books of non-fiction, *The Rebel Queen*, *The Magnificent Spilsbury* and *The Curious Case of Dr. Adams*.

UK: HarperCollins

Publication: Christmas 2017

Rights sold: *Dutch*: Prometheus; *French*: Sonatine; *Italian*: offers

## Just Delivered

We now have the final manuscript and page layouts for @manwhohasitall's **FROM FRAZZLED TO FABULOUS** and have just sold German rights to Piper Verlag on the basis of a pre-empt.

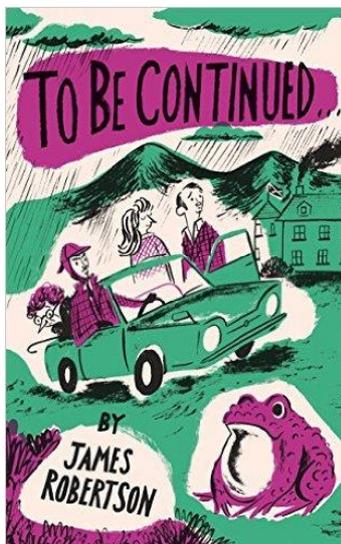
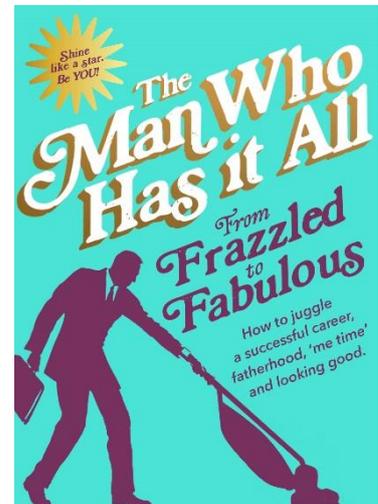
While his hotly anticipated book doesn't pretend to have all the answers, the Man Who Has It All helps men to nurture opinions of their own, make time to smile and choose between a career or baby. It includes words of wisdom on everything from accentuating the parts of your body you like, e.g. good legs, in order to draw away from problem areas, e.g. the things you do and say, to working out how to fit yoghurt into your busy schedule.

This is a must-have book for frazzled dads who are struggling to stay hydrated and get to the bottom of the ironing pile. Oh, and it's for women who believe that men should be fully supported to have it all and, more importantly, do it all. Those women will love this book.

UK: Transworld

Publication: October 2016

Rights sold: *German*: Piper Verlag



We also have proofs for James Robertson's gloriously surreal novel **TO BE CONTINUED.**

Douglas Findhorn Elder is in a sorry state. He's just turned 50, split up from his girlfriend and been pushed out of his job at the local news rag. On the night of his birthday, he makes an unexpected new friend: a talking toad. So begins a wild goose chase that will lead Douglas out of his cosy house in Edinburgh and across the country to crumbling Glentaragar Manor in the remotest Highlands. Awaiting him along the way are a semi-criminal hearse driver, a hundred-year-old political firebrand grandmother, a split-personality alcoholic/teetotaller, an elaborate whiskey-smuggling conspiracy, a mysterious woman with a rather enchanting Greek nose, and maybe even a shot at redemption...

Indeed James Robertson proves once and for all that the important things in life - friendship, romance, a funeral hearse stuffed with crates of bootlegged whiskey - come when you least expect them.

UK: Hamish Hamilton

Publication: August 2016

And final proofs for Philip Eade's biography **EVELYN WAUGH: A LIFE REVISITED** have arrived ahead of Weidenfeld & Nicholson's publication in July.

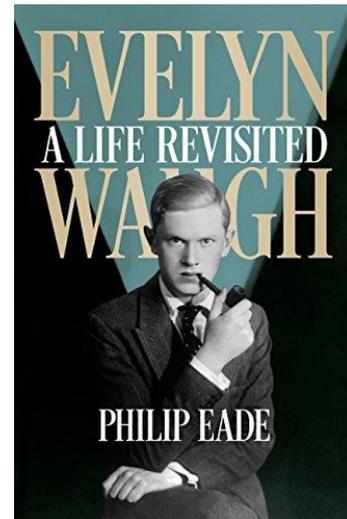
Described by Graham Greene as 'the greatest novelist of my generation', yet reckoned by Hilaire Belloc to have been possessed by the devil, Waugh's literary reputation has continued to rise. Fifty years on from his death, acclaimed biographer Philip Eade takes a fresh look at this famously complex character and tells the full story of his dramatic, colourful and frequently bizarre life.

Written with the help of the Waugh family and drawing on numerous unpublished letters, diaries and memoirs, the book sheds new light on Waugh's strained relationship with his sentimental father and blatantly favoured elder brother, and the burning ambition they provoked in him; his formative homosexual love affairs at Oxford; his disastrous first marriage and subsequent conversion to Roman Catholicism; his unrequited love for the brightest of the Bright Young People; his complex interest in the aristocracy and what the aristocrats made of him; his insane bravery yet chequered wartime career; his drug-induced madness; his strangely successful second marriage; his unconventional attitude to his six children; his sharp tongue; his devastating wit; the love, fear and loathing that he variously inspired.

Scrupulously researched and sympathetically written, this is a sparkling and compelling new biography of one of the greatest writers of the twentieth century - and one of England's most mythologised eccentrics.

*UK:* Weidenfeld & Nicholson

Publication: July 2016



## Recent UK/US Sales

US rights in **NOMAD**, James Swallow's pulse-racing terrorist thriller have been acquired by Tor who plan to publish in June 2017. The UK edition has been in the top ten on the UK bestseller list since publication.

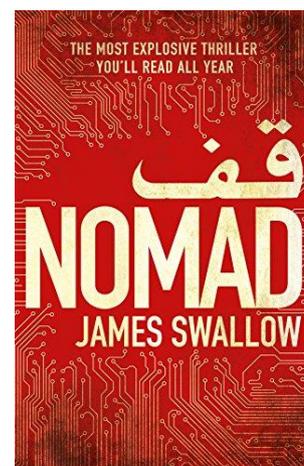
Marc Dane is a MI6 field agent at home behind a computer screen, one step away from the action. But when a brutal attack on his team leaves Marc as the only survivor - and with the shocking knowledge that there are traitors inside MI6 - he's forced into the front line in a desperate race to clear his own name.

With nowhere to turn to for help and no one left to trust, Marc has to rely on the elusive Rubicon group and their operative Lucy Keyes. Ex US Army, Lucy also knows what it's like to be an outsider, and she's got the skills that Marc is sorely lacking.

A terrorist attack is coming, one bigger and more deadly than has ever been seen before and with the eyes of the security establishment elsewhere, only Lucy and Marc can stop it.

*UK: Zaffre; US: Tor*

Rights sold: *German: Blanvalet; Italian: pending*



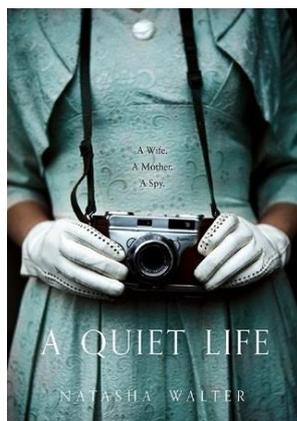
And in another recent sale US rights in **I'LL CALL YOU RED** by Paula Coccozza have been acquired by Riva Hoeherman at Metropolitan.

**I'LL CALL YOU RED** is a novel set between two houses in East London over the course of one hot summer. Off work with an undisclosed illness, intimidated by the looming presence of her ex-boyfriend, Mark, who has moved out but is never far away, and struggling with her deteriorating relationship with her next door neighbours, Mary has, in her isolation, become increasingly obsessed with the magnificent fox who is always in her garden. First she sees him wink at her, then he brings her presents and shares her garden rug, and finally she invites him into her house. As the boundaries between the domestic and the wild blur, and the neighbours set out to exterminate the fox, it is unclear if Mary will save the fox, or the fox save Mary.

*UK: Hutchinson; US: Metropolitan*

Publication: Spring 2017

## Recently Published and Forthcoming



Natasha Walter's Cold War thriller **A QUIET LIFE** has been published this month to wonderful reviews. It's already been picked by Vogue as one of their Best Thrillers of the summer.

Since the disappearance of her husband in 1951, Laura Leverett has been living in limbo with her daughter in Geneva. All others see is her conventional, charming exterior; nobody guesses the secret she is carrying.

This is the warm-blooded story of the Cold War. The story of a wife whose part will take her from London in the Blitz, to Washington at the height of McCarthyism, to the possible haven of the English countryside. Gradually she learns what is at stake for herself, her husband, and her daughter; gradually she realises the dark consequences of her youthful idealism.

'As well as having a gift for cool, elegant phrasing, and a fine sensitivity to psychology reminiscent of Elizabeth Jane Howard, Walter proves to be a hardworking and accomplished storyteller. Walter is terrific, too, at capturing the tense, bleached-out dreariness of the cold war in London and Washington, easily competing with the claims of such experienced novelists as Sebastian Faulks and William Boyd to the territory, and bringing to it a unique perspective that resonates long after the novel is laid down.' *Guardian*

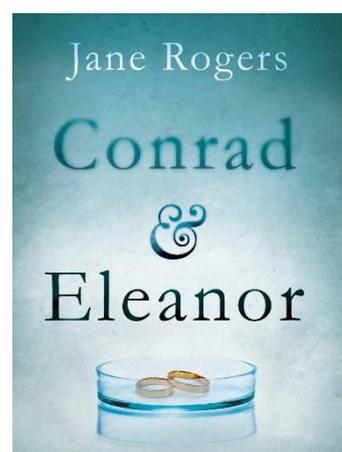
'(Walter is) a brilliant observer of period, place and upper-class mores. Impressive and rewarding.' *Daily Mail*

UK: Borough Press

Publication: 16<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Jane Rogers' **CONRAD & ELEANOR** was published this month to impressive reviews on both sides of the Atlantic.

When Conrad fails to return home from a science conference, Eleanor guesses he may at last be reacting to her infidelity. Or has he finally tired of his stagnating job in transplant research? Eleanor's own scientific career has forged ahead, while Conrad played main carer to their children. The four children, now adult, fear for their father but seem to have little sympathy for their tough ambitious mother. Meanwhile, a long way from home, Conrad is alone, scared and on the run.



'This powerful novel ruthlessly exposes its characters' inner lives to explore the contradictions at the heart of love.' *Guardian*

"A nuanced, pragmatic look at the long-married state The novel's strengths are the author's intelligence, her avoidance of sentimentality, and the honest scrutiny she

brings to bear on how intimate adult relationships age and settle." *Kirkus Reviews*

"A really clever, reflective and dispassionate scrutiny of a marriage in trouble." *Daily Mail*

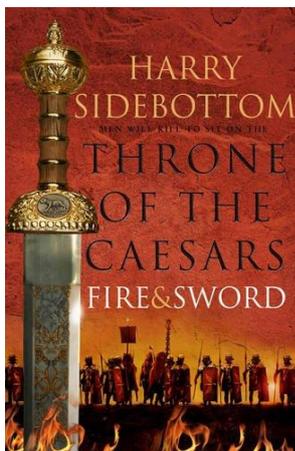
UK: Atlantic; US: HarperCollins



The paperback edition of **ACCORDING TO YES** by Dawn French has now spent the last 5 consecutive weeks in the top 10 of the bestseller list!

UK: Michael Joseph

Rights Sold: *Czech*: Argo; *Dutch*: House of Books, *Norwegian*: Kagge; *Polish*: Sonia Draga; *Swedish*: Printz



The third instalment in Harry Sidebottom's **THRONE OF THE CAESERS** series **FIRE AND SWORD** landed straight on the bestseller list this month on publication.

**Rome AD238.** The Year of the Six Emperors: a dramatic era of murder, coup, counter-rebellions and civil war.

The Empire is in turmoil. With the Gordiani, father and son, dead in Africa, the tyrant Maximinus Thrax vies to reclaim the throne. The Senate, who supported the revolt of the Gordiani, must act quickly to avoid the vengeance of Maximinus. They elect two Senators to share the imperial purple. But fighting erupts in the streets as ambitious men call for violent revolution. Can the new *Augusti* hold the city together as the Empire's farthest territories fight off bloody attacks from the Goths and the Persians in the east?

Filled with intrigue, betrayal and bloody battle, FIRE & SWORD creates a magnificent world built on brutality and political games, where no one is safe from retribution – not even those who dare to rule.

UK: HarperCollins; US: Overlook Press

Rights sold: *Brazilian*: Record; *Italian*: Newton Compton



In addition to an earlier sale on the basis of the proposal in Japan we have now sold Korean rights at auction in **RETHINK** by Steven Poole to Sam & Parker.

RETHINK explains “Why airships, vinyl and leeches are back in fashion.” It’s the story of how old ideas that were mocked or ignored for centuries are now storming back to the cutting edge of research, and informing the way we lead our lives.

Using compelling examples from the worlds of philosophy, science, technology, politics and business, Steven Poole shows what we can learn by returning to discarded ideas, and considering them from a different perspective. He explains why today's chess grandmasters, quantum physicists and psychologists are mining the last 2,000 years of history for answers to the problems of the present. And he reveals how long-neglected thinkers could transform all of our everyday lives - from improving the way boardrooms operate, to sparking grand projects for social and political change.

“When it comes to describing a complex idea clearly, Poole is one of the best writers around... [a] clever and entertaining book.” *Sunday Times*

“In his entertaining and important new book, Steven Poole offers a modern take on ancient wisdom.” *Daily Telegraph*

UK: Random House Books; US: Simon & Schuster

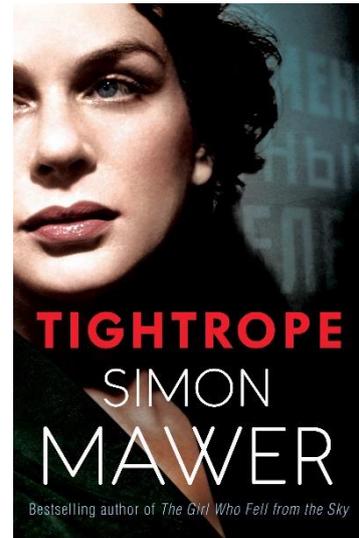
Publication: 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Rights sold: *Japanese*: Hayakawa; *Korean*: Sam & Parker

## Media and Prizes

We are delighted to announce that Simon Mawer has been awarded the Walter Scott Prize for Historical Fiction for **TIGHTROPE**. Mawer, who was also shortlisted for the Prize in 2010, came out ahead of a shortlist that also included novels by William Boyd and Patrick Gale. The judges called it: “a spy story in the grand tradition, sweeping the reader irresistibly into the harrowing life of a secret agent in World War Two. Impeccably researched, it perfectly inhabits its time and place.”

“[Mawer] has a gift for both deft plotting and the sort of pitch-perfect detail that places the reader squarely in the midst of a particular time and place...inescapably calls John Le Carré to mind.” *Financial Times*

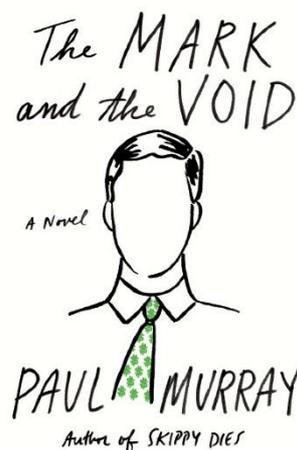
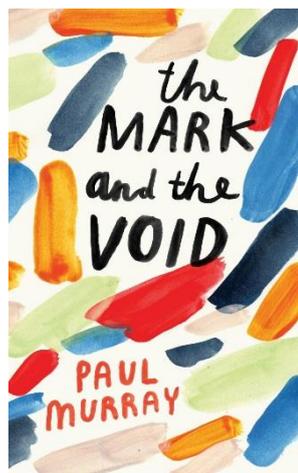


“Simon Mawer is a true master of literary espionage...TIGHTROPE is gripping stuff.” *Mail on Sunday*

“Mawer’s feeling for time and place remains impressively sharp...undeniably entertaining.” *Daily Telegraph*

UK: Little Brown; US: Other Press

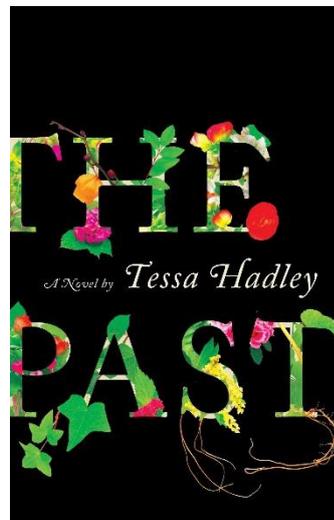
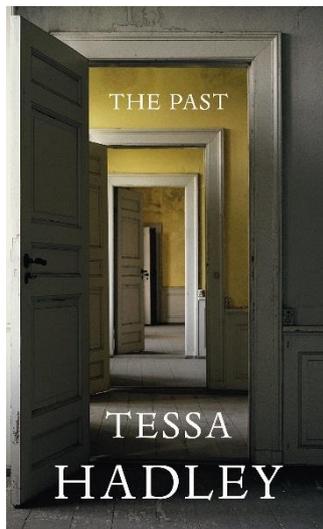
Rights sold: Czech: Kniha Zlin



Paul Murray has been awarded the Bollinger Everyman Wodehouse Prize for Comic Fiction for **THE MARK AND THE VOID**. Previous winners include Alexander McCall Smith, Howard Jacobson and the late Sir Terry Pratchett. He’s now the proud owner of a pig named after him and a jeroboam of champagne.

UK: Hamish Hamilton; US: Farrar, Straus & Giroux

Rights sold: *Dutch*: Meridiaan; *French*: Belfond; *German*: Kunstmann; *Turkish*: Adam Yayincilik



Tessa Hadley has won the Hawthornden Prize 2016 for her novel **THE PAST**. The Prize was presented by Alan Hollinghurst at a reception held at the London Library.

THE PAST, which is published in Vintage paperback this month and is the Waterstones Fiction Book of the Month for July, has been highly praised by reviewers and readers for its depiction of a family holiday and a way of life slowly unravelling under the strain of rivalry, secrets and unruly desire.

The Hawthornden Prize is one of literature's oldest and most prestigious awards. Founded in 1919, the Prize rewards works of "imaginative literature" which can be either poetry or prose. Unlike other literary awards, the Hawthornden Prize does not solicit submissions. Previous winners of the Hawthornden Prize include Robert Graves, Graham Greene, Hilary Mantel and Colm Tóibín.

*UK*: Cape; *US*: HarperCollins; *Canada*: Random House

Rights sold: *French*: Bourgois Editeur; *German*: Piper; *Italian*: Bompiani; *Polish*: Wydawnicza Foksal

