

Mick Jackson

Writer - Fiction and Non-fiction

Mick Jackson studied Creative Writing at UEA under Malcolm Bradbury and Rose Tremain. His first novel, *The Underground Man*, was shortlisted for the Booker Prize and won the Royal Society of Authors' First Novel Award. He's since written three other novels: *Five Boys* (runner-up in the Encore Award), *The Widow's Tale* (East Anglian Book of the Year) and *Yuki chan in Bronte Country*, as well as two collections of stories, *Ten Sorry Tales* and *Bears of England*. In recent years he has also written for children. *While You're*



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Publications

Fiction

Publication Details	Notes
YUKI CHAN IN BRONTE COUNTRY 2016 Faber and Faber	'They both stop and stare for a moment. Yuki feels she's spent about half her adult life thinking about snow, but when it starts, even now, it's always arresting, bewildering. Each snowflake skating along some invisible plane. Always circuitous, as if looking for the best place to land...' Yukiko tragically lost her mother ten years ago. After visiting her sister in London, she goes on the run, and heads for Haworth, West Yorkshire, the last place her mother visited before her death. Against a cold, winter, Yorkshire landscape, Yuki has to tackle the mystery of her mother's death, her burgeoning friendship with a local girl, the allure of the Brontes and her own sister's wrath.

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JUNIOR SCIENCE 2011 World All Languages: Faber	<p>Published as an ebook original to tie in with Mick Jackson's appointment as the first writer-in-residence at the Science Museum, JUNIOR SCIENCE comprises three stories - 'Zero Gravity', 'The Answering Machine', and 'Back to School'. Originally commissioned by BBC Radio 4, they were broadcast in November 2011. Full of wonder, pathos and mystery, these stories are marked by Jackson's unique sensibility, exploring the way children start to become aware of the world around them.</p>
THE WIDOW'S TALE 2010 World English Language: Faber; Danish: Rosenkilde;Dutch: Ambo Anthos; French: Christian Bourgois	<p>A newly-widowed woman has done a runner. She just jumped in her car, abandoned her (very nice) house in north London and kept on driving until she reached the Norfolk coast. Now she's rented a tiny cottage and holed herself away there, if only to escape the ceaseless sympathy and insincere concern.</p> <p>She's not quite sure, but thinks she may be having a bit of a breakdown. Or perhaps this sense of dislocation is perfectly normal in the circumstances. All she knows is that she can't sleep and may be drinking a little more than she ought to.</p> <p>But as her story unfolds we discover that her marriage was far from perfect. That it was, in fact, full of frustration and disappointment, as well as one or two significant secrets, and that by running away to this particular village she might actually be making her own personal pilgrimage.</p> <p>By turns elegiac and highly comical, THE WIDOW'S TALE conjures up this most defiantly unapologetic of narrators as she begins to pick over the wreckage of her life and decide what has real value and what she should leave behind.</p>

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BEARS OF ENGLAND 2009 UK: Faber	<p>There is a stirring in the forest of history and through the mists of time come the bears. Their heavy tread and a distant cry can be heard resounding through the centuries: "Come, bears of England, come ...". Mick Jackson uses these proud, terrifying creatures to weave his strange and unforgettable story. From the Dark Ages come the spirit bears, haunting the villagers at night. Sin-eating bears consume the sins of the recently departed along with the bread and ale left out for them – until they decline the role of assuager of human guilt and oblige the townsfolk to take responsibility for their own actions. Gladiatorial bears in chains draw huge crowds until one decides he's had enough: how will the people entertain themselves now that the bears have had their sport with them? Highly trained circus bears suddenly revolt and walk the high wire along their escape route. Bears who clean the Victorian sewers trade coins and rare pieces of jewellery fallen into the sewers; men steal from them at their peril. There are rumours of bears living among us, who have deliberately inveigled their way into society to live domestic lives. As each band of bears walk into exile, they head north and into the caves of the Derbyshire Dales and hibernation – until an old voice calls the Bears of England and they emerge into the winter snow, finally escaping into the icy waters of the channel. This is the last the bears see of England – and the last England sees of the bears...</p> <p>Mixing folk tale with fantasy and history with myth, the narrative that unfolds is dark, playful and filled with magical moments, as it marches ever forward towards a strange convergence. The author of THE UNDERGROUND MAN and FIVE BOYS has produced an adult fable with resonances for our own times, about the fear of the unknown and the triumph of strength over evil – with freedom being the ultimate goal. Or perhaps it's just a delightfully witty and quirky book for those who love reading about bears? It's for the reader to decide.</p>
TEN SORRY TALES 2006 World All Languages: Faber	<p>A boy who sleeps through his teenage years, a pair of spinsters who collect young men in a highly unorthodox manner, a young man who answers an advertisement for a 'hermit wanted', and a school-teacher who fakes her own abduction by aliens: these are some of the eccentric characters in Mick Jackson's new collection of fable-like stories, TEN SORRY TALES. Told with all the wit and charm of his best-selling novels, TEN SORRY TALES will be published in an illustrated edition for readers of all ages.</p>

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FIVE BOYS 2002 UK: Faber; US: Morrow; Czech: Argo; Danish: Rosenkilde; Dutch: Ambo Anthos; French: Christian Bourgois; German: Knaus; AUDIO UK:	When Bobby is evacuated in 1941 from London to a remote village in Devon, he imagines his life has come to an end. In fact, a new and very strange life is about to begin. Abandoned by its men-folk, the village is entirely given over to its stay-behinds: the women, the old and the young, the chancer who has evaded conscription, and the terrifying five boys, who subject Bobby to dreadful rites of passage but who eventually and grudgingly accept him as one of them. The village is dominated by strange and eccentric characters, not the least of whom is the Bee King, who exercises a powerful, and indeed hypnotic, influence on the boys. As American G. I.s gather in preparation for D-Day a curious but no less compelling drama is acted out by the stay-behinds. Just exactly who is the Bee King, and why has he descended with his thousands of tiny subjects on this village at this particular time? In this finely wrought novel, and following his Booker-shortlisted THE UNDERGROUND MAN, Mick Jackson evokes a lost place and time with an exquisite touch.