



Press Release

EXCITING NEW ACQUISITIONS FOR PENGUIN AHEAD OF THE LONDON BOOK FAIR

London April 16th 2010... Penguin's editors have been busy acquiring new titles in the run up to the London Book Fair.

At **Michael Joseph**, Fiction Publisher Mari Evans has bought UK rights for *The Pleasures of Men* by Kate Williams. Historian Kate Williams' debut novel has generated huge interest worldwide - US and Canadian rights were secured within five days of its submission, and auctions in multiple territories are now underway. It will be published worldwide in 2011/2012, with Michael Joseph publishing in August 2011.

The Pleasures of Men, set in 1840's London has, at its core, the sexual, obsessive underworld of murder, body-snatching, wrong science and torment that the Victorians tried to hide. Catherine Sorgeiul, nineteen years old and nervous of life, becomes preoccupied by a series of terrible murders of young girls sweeping London. Details of the crimes are especially grim – the bodies have their limbs grotesquely folded behind them, their chests are slashed open and a two penny coin rests on their bleeding hearts. Their hair has been newly-plaited, severed and thrust into their mouths and the serial killer is soon nick-named The Birdman. As the stench of murder reaches nearer her home Catherine realises that she has involved herself in a web of betrayal, deceit and terror that threatens her very being and the lives of those around her.

Mari Evans, Fiction Publisher, Michael Joseph, said: 'Fiction debuts that make your spine tingle and keep you reading through the night - literally in this case - are all too rare, but Kate's novel is distinctive in so many ways: from its riveting depiction of the dark underbelly of London's East End in the 19th Century to its chilling plot, reminiscent of the best fin-de-siècle literature such as Shelley's *Frankenstein*. Or in the beauty of the writing and the absolute commerciality of the tale Kate has chosen to tell through the mouthpiece of an unforgettable heroine. Stunning and exciting.'



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Michael Joseph is also delighted to announce the acquisition of *The Set-up* – a remarkable thriller by debut novelist Felix Riley. In a pre-emptive offer to Jonathan Lloyd at Curtis Brown, Alex Clarke acquired UK and Commonwealth rights for two novels by Riley.

Set in modern day New York, *The Set-up*, is an intelligent, poised and breathtaking thriller which combines the intrigue and complexity of John Grisham with the action and pace of a Jason Bourne episode. The novel opens as ex-US Secret Service agent Mike Byrne is accused of gunning down four leading American bankers in their board room. The NYPD have it all on film, and they have a motive – the only problem is, Mike didn't do it. He does, however, freely admit to the early killing of four Russian Mafiosi who seemed to be planning the assassination of the President. And so the maelstrom begins. *The Set-up* is the first novel in a series which will feature Mike Byrne as a continuing hero.

Alex Clarke, Publisher at Michael Joseph, said: “Felix’s writing is in a league of its own – we’ve been looking for a new British thriller writer with this sort of class for a long, long time. It’s been worth the wait – *The Set-up* is one of the most astonishingly accomplished debuts I’ve ever read. Plain and simple – its genius.”

As announced last week, Tom Clancy, number 1 international bestselling author, bestselling videogame presenter and one of the preeminent and most prescient storytellers of our time, has written a modern-day techno-thriller, like nothing he has ever done before, called *Dead or Alive*. The eagerly-awaited novel will be published simultaneously by G. P. Putnam’s Sons in the U. S. and by **Michael Joseph** in the U.K. on December 7, 2010. The publication of *Dead or Alive* will be a global publishing event, featuring, for the first time ever, many of his greatest characters, including Jack Ryan and John Clark, and bringing readers inside the present-day war on terror.

At **Fig Tree**, in a deal comprising world rights for two books, Juliet Annan bought a debut novel *22 Britannia Road* by Amanda Hodgkinson from Rachel Calder. *22 Britannia Road* tells the story of Polish émigrés Silvana and Janusz making a home for themselves in post war Britain with their son Aurek. Separated for six years throughout the war, Silvana and Aurek have spent the duration hiding in the forests of Poland, while Janusz' story is even more chequered. Each of the three have secrets, and in order to learn to live together again, they will have to accept what happened to them



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and the choices that war forced upon them in Poland. At the heart of the story is Silvana and Janusz's desperate desire to make a new home for their wild, woodland boy.

With echoes of *Small Island* and *Sophie's Choice* and a setting of post-war Ipswich, *22 Britannia Road* is a powerful novel of acceptance, survival and love. Fig Tree will publish in Spring/Summer 2011, and Amanda is already working on her second novel.

At **Hamish Hamilton**, Simon Prosser has acquired UK and Commonwealth rights from agent David Grossman to Noam Chomsky's *Gaza in Crisis*. Co-written with Ilan Pappé and edited by Frank Barat, *Gaza in Crisis* sees Chomsky turning his clear-sighted analysis and outspoken commentary to an area in desperate need of a way forward. Surveying the fallout from Israel's Operation Cast Lead in 2008, the book is a rigorous, historically informed and much-needed analysis of the situation and will be welcomed by all those eager for Chomsky's insights into yet another political catastrophe. Chomsky's co-writer, Ilan Pappé, is Professor of History at the University of Exeter, co-director of the Exeter Centre for Ethno-Political Studies, director of the Palestine Studies Centre at the University of Exeter, and the author of various books. Hamish Hamilton will publish in October 2010.

Lydia Davis's *Collected Stories* also joins the **Hamish Hamilton** list. The title has already been published to great acclaim in the US by FSG. Simon Prosser has bought UK and Commonwealth rights from agent Judith Murray on behalf of Denise Shannon. Lydia Davis is one of the most celebrated and influential short-story writers in the US and has been praised as 'the best prose stylist in America' (Rick Moody) and 'one of the quiet giants . . . of American fiction' (*Los Angeles Times Book Review*). Hamish Hamilton will publish this definitive collection of her work in August 2010.

Finally at **Hamish Hamilton**, Prosser has bought UK and Commonwealth rights for Francesco Pacifico's novel *Storia della mia purezza* (*The Story of my Purity*) from Marion Duvert at FSG in the US. The title has just been published in Italy by Mondadori. An Italian novel by a young author called Francesco Pacifico, *The Story of My Purity* tells the story of a man who rebels against his liberal parents and upbringing by being as arch-conservative and conventional as he can be. After he moves to Paris, an ironic twist sees him inadvertently becoming a hero of the alternative counter-culture he despises. Something like a Roman Catholic answer to *Portnoy's Complaint*, with dashes



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of Houellebecq, *The Story of My Purity* is sharp, sophisticated and very funny. Hamish Hamilton plan to publish in 2012.

At **Viking**, Mary Mount has acquired world rights to a new book from Jeremy Paxman: *Empire*, which will be published in autumn 2011 to tie in with a BBC 1 series. The book will tell the story of the British Empire and particularly how the rise and fall of the empire shaped Britain.

Also at **Viking**, Venetia Butterfield has bought from Deborah Rogers at Rogers, Coleridge and White, UK and Commonwealth rights to the haunting and powerful new novel by the Orange-shortlisted author, Nicole Krauss, *Great House*, which will be published in February 2011 and in Group and International markets in October this year.

Venetia Butterfield and Eleo Gordon have acquired from Patrick Walsh at Conville and Walsh, UK and Commonwealth including Canada rights to *An African Love Story: Love, Life and Elephants* by Daphne Sheldrick. The book tells the powerful and passionate story of Daphne and her husband David; their life in Kenya's huge Tsavo National Park; and their work raising and rehabilitating orphans of many wild species, in particular elephants. This title is scheduled for publication in March 2012.

Also at **Viking**, Joel Rickett has bought *The Pleasure Paradox* by Carl Hart. This is a radical popular science book about addiction and the way that pleasure affects human behaviour. Carl Hart is a preeminent and provocative neuroscientist – in his Columbia University lab he doses people with ecstasy and marijuana and studies the effects. Viking acquired UK & Commonwealth rights from Peter Robinson at RCW, acting for Marc Gerald at The Agency.

Will Hammond at **Viking** has acquired UK and Commonwealth including ANZ rights to *The Book of Deadly Animals* by New Yorker and Granta contributor Gordon Grice - the 'Stephen King of nature writers' - bought from Victoria Hobbs on behalf of Elyse Cheney, to be published in November 2011. This will be published in the US by Dial (Random House) this May.



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Tony Lacey at **Viking** has acquired UK Commonwealth including Canada rights to *Young Clough* by Richard Williams from Clare Alexander at Aitken Alexander. Many books have been written about Brian Clough who is a perennially fascinating figure. But Richard Williams, chief sportswriter for the *Guardian* and author of the classic *The Death of Ayrton Senna*, takes an intriguing new approach by looking at Clough's early life, before his injury on Boxing Day 1962 put a premature end to his playing career and forced him into management. The result is a wonderful portrait of English working-class life in the 1950s - in Middlesbrough, where life centered around the steel and chemical works, and the football stadium. Against this backdrop Williams tells the story of a gifted footballer cruelly injured in his prime and his burgeoning relationship with the much older goalkeeper Peter Taylor - a partnership which went on to achieve astonishing success at the highest level. Based on interviews with Clough's teammates from the time (now in their 70s and 80s), his friends and many locals who remember the young man, this is a fresh look at the legend which is Brian Clough. The book will be published in July 2011.

And finally at **Viking**, Tony Lacey has acquired UK Commonwealth excluding Canada rights to *Zero History* by William Gibson. Rights were bought from Meg Davis at MBA, representing US agent Martha Millard. William Gibson's new novel features some of the characters from *Spook Country*, his 2007 *New York Times* bestseller; this time acting out in post-crash London. Former rock-star Hollis is doing what she said she'd never do again: working for mysterious Belgian businessman Hubertus Bigend, who's chasing a plan to sell equipment to the US military. Bigend links her up with Milgrim, a brilliant linguist and ex-junkie, whom he rescued from the streets and is also now in his employ. The closer they get to the heart of the deal, the more the pair realise that there are some very dangerous competitors ... and the more they resent working for Bigend himself. Gibson brilliantly captures the new post-crash world, international, uneasy and uncertain. Viking will publish in January 2011.

At **Allen Lane (Penguin Press)**, Helen Conford has bought world rights for *How to Curate: Museum Know-How for All* by Hans Ulrich Obrist from Kevin Conroy Scott at Tibor Jones Associates.



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Hans Ulrich Obrist is currently ranked by Art Review as the most powerful person in the Contemporary Art world. Obrist's first mainstream book tracks the evolution of his own understanding of curation, opening out from his kitchen into museums, then into the world, and the intimate spaces of every reader's life. In the way that John Berger's *Ways of Seeing* changed our understanding of visual culture and its effect on us, so this book will give all of us tools we can use to help us live. The book will be published by Allen Lane in September 2011.

Will Goodlad has acquired world rights for *The Ocean of Life* by Callum Roberts from Patrick Walsh at Conville & Walsh. The oceans are an extraordinary paradox; they remain the most wondrously mysterious place on earth and yet we take them completely for granted. Callum Roberts uses his lifetime of experience working with the oceans to show us the whole story; a panoramic tour beneath the seas. Above all, Roberts reveals the amazing richness and complexity of life in the oceans, and how it has changed over the centuries. Not only does Roberts show how we are fishing our oceans to extinction, but crucially, he explains how what is happening in the oceans also directly affects our lives on the land. This title will be published in January 2012 by Allen Lane.

Also at **Allen Lane**, Will Goodlad has bought UK and Commonwealth rights from Max Brockman for *Talking to the Enemy: Faith, Brotherhood and the (un)Making of Terrorists* by Scott Atram. Scott Atram's anthropological study of the origins of terrorism, encompassing social, psychological and cultural issues, and much personal experience, shows how seeing terrorist acts through a lens of sacred values makes explicable what seems irrational. Allen Lane will publish this title in November 2010.

Finally from **Allen Lane**, Will Goodlad has secured UK and Commonwealth rights for *Here on Earth: A New Beginning* by Tim Flannery. Rights were bought from Sarah Lutyens at Lutyens & Rubinstein and the title is due for publication in October 2010 by Allen Lane.

Here on Earth is a revolutionary dual biography of the planet, and of our species, in which Flannery reimagines the history of earth, the impact of humans and how that impact has changed us as a species. *Here on Earth* liberates us from years of received ideas and offers a new way to think about our place in the world.



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For further information about any of the titles listed above,

Please visit the **Penguin Group stand (No. H505) at the London International Book Fair.**

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