

Tim Lott's brilliant anatomy of male friendship, *White City Blue*, was critically lauded on publication in 1999 and won the Whitbread First Novel Prize. Now Viking will publish his ambitious new novel which has just been

Shortlisted for the 2002 Whitbread Novel Award

Rumours of a Hurricane

TIM LOTT

Published in Viking hardback on 7th February 2002 at £14.99

1991: Maureen Horn, a prosperous businesswoman, starts another busy day. In London, fifty miles away, bereft of family, home, job and friends, her ex husband, Charlie Buck is struck by a lorry. He is a drunken vagrant, and a willing victim. How did he end up here?

1979: Charlie Buck, like his father before him, is a compositor at *Times* Newspapers. Maureen is his loyal and dutiful wife, Robert his feckless teenage son. Life is safe, predictable. Out in the wider world, the unions fight with the bosses, and the government, Tory or Labour, step in to settle matters when things get out of hand. Coffee is instant. Bread is sliced. Weather is rainy. Beer is warm and dark brown. But as the nation elects its first woman Prime Minister, in this fulcrum of a year, great and unpredictable changes are set in motion. Maureen and Charlie find themselves liberated from their municipal existence. Yet the new world that is being born is dangerous as well as exciting - and only one of them is tough enough to weather the hurricane.

In *Rumours of a Hurricane*, Tim Lott turns an unflinching eye on the 1980s - the Thatcher years - and the devastating impact of this decade of social, sexual and political upheaval on one ordinary English working family.

PRAISE FOR RUMOURS OF A HURRICANE:

'Very funny... Lott has a true gift for choosing the unusual but exquisitely apt word, making his writing a pleasure to savour like a favourite food' Ruth Rendell, *The Sunday Times*.

'The tender, disquieting autopsy of an unsophisticated and commonplace marriage. What a touching, honest, and courageous book!' Jim Crace

'The first great British novel of the 21st century... Tim Lott is one of my all-time favourite writers' Tony Parsons.

<p>Tim Lott read Politics and History at the London School of Economics. He has worked as a broadcaster, magazine editor and television producer. He lives in Notting Hill, London. His award-winning memoir, <i>The Scent of Dried Roses</i>, was published by Viking in 1996. <i>White City Blue</i> won the 1999 Whitbread First Novel Award. He</p>
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is divorced with two young daughters and lives in West London. He is available for interview and to write pieces under commission.

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