

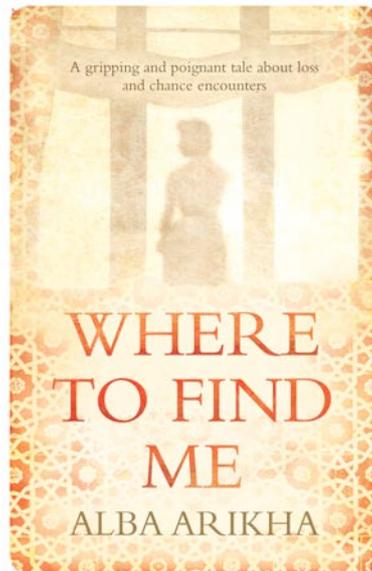
RIGHTS CATALOGUE

2018

Alma Books Ltd

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WHERE TO FIND ME

Alba Arikha

September 2018 · 300pp

Urgent storytelling. - *Siri Hustvedt*

Elegant in style, complex and circular in construction, the story of a Jewish survivor in occupied France and her unlikely friendship with a London teenager. Two worlds, two eras: an evocative and subtle novel. - *Lawrence Osborne*

Aching and luminous - *David Flusfeder*

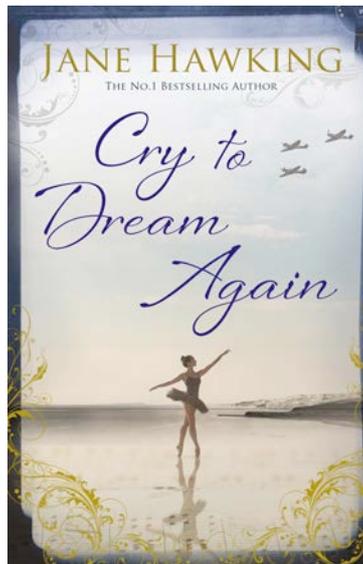
One hopes, one hunts, for a book that resembles nothing one has read before. Alba Arikha's *Soon* is not only a true original, it's beautiful, moving, and, yes, profound. Which makes it a rare creature indeed. - *Michael Cunningham*

Hannah Karalis, a teenager living with her family in 1980s Notting Hill, becomes fascinated by her neighbour, Flora Dobbs, an enigmatic elderly woman who has clearly had an interesting past – but the improbable friendship that the two strike up is abruptly cut short by Flora's sudden departure from the neighbourhood. Eighteen years later, Hannah is astonished to receive a black notebook, which sets her on a quest to discover the truth and to confront the ghosts of an unresolved past.

A gripping and poignant tale of chance encounters, tangled lies and painful discoveries, *Where to Find Me* is an inspiring account of how to face and overcome the effects of loss and tragedy in our daily lives.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Alba Arikha is the author of four books: *Muse* and *Walking on Ice* published by Macmillan in 1998 and 2000. Her memoir, *Major/Minor*, about her adolescence in Paris, was published by Quartet Books, shortlisted for the Spear's Award and selected among the best books of 2012 by The New Yorker. Her last book, a narrative poem, *Soon*, was set to music and performed as an opera at the Riverside Studios, London. In addition to her books, Alba is also a singer-songwriter, has performed in London and Paris and recorded two CDs.

Rights sold: China (CITIC Press Corporation)



CRY TO DREAM AGAIN

Jane Hawking

JUNE 2018 · 300pp

Written by the UK No.1 Bestselling author Jane Hawking, author of *Travelling to Infinity: The True Story Behind the Theory of Everything*, CRY TO DREAM AGAIN is a thwarted love story set against the background of the Second World War

In 1930s Greater London, Shirley is a talented ballerina who dreams of becoming a principal dancer at the Sadler's Wells Ballet Company. Yet one summer, on the way back from staying with her grandparents in France, she meets a handsome young man, Alan, for a fleeting moment and her life changes for ever. Finding him becomes an obsession for Shirley and now she longs to fulfil her dreams in the ballet simply so that he might see her name in lights and know where to find her.

With the outbreak of the Second World War, and those she loves in danger, Shirley's priority becomes to help in the war effort, but with Alan appearing once more in her life, and the war threatening to part them for a second time, she knows that she cannot cope if she were to lose him again.

Rights sold for Cry to Dream Again: Brazil (Editora Gente)



SILENT MUSIC

Growing up in London in the aftermath of the Second World War, Ruth is an observant and thoughtful child who finds herself in a confusing and mysterious adult world. She seeks refuge in her memories of her idyllic stays with her grandparents in the picturesque East Anglian countryside – which provide comforting visions of a simpler life. As she comes to terms with her surroundings and her own adolescence, Ruth finds the motivation to pursue her dream of becoming an accomplished pianist, and discovers some family secrets along the way.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Dr Jane Hawking, who was Stephen Hawking's wife for over twenty years, is a writer and lecturer. Her book *At Home in France* was published in 1994, followed by her memoir *Travelling to Infinity* which became an Oscar-winning movie in 2015 under the title *The Theory of Everything*.

Rights sold for Silent Music: Spain (Lumen), Italy (Piemme), Portugal (Marcador), Brazil (Editora Gente)

The South in Winter

FICTION

Peter Benson

Matthew Baxter was almost there. Almost a writer, almost a lover, almost a traveller. He wrote for the Tread Lightly range of travel guides, he loved his boss and he was about to catch a plane to the south. His job was to give an out-of-season slant to the Italian guide, and he was ready. Almost. For everything wasn't exactly as it should have been. In fact, nothing was exactly as it should have been. Especially Matthew Baxter.

Peter Benson's new novel is a story of (almost) unrequited love and a meditation on the possibility of redemption. It's also a tour of southern Italy, and aims to prove that although some people say "Never go back", some people don't know what they're talking about.

Sketcher

FICTION

Roland Watson-Grant

Nine-year-old "Skid" Beaumont's family is stuck in the mud. Following his father's decision to relocate and build a new home, based on a drunken vision that New Orleans would rapidly expand eastwards into the wetlands as a result of the Seventies oil boom, Skid and his brothers grow up in a swampy area of Louisiana. As things on the home front get more complicated, Skid learns of his mother's alleged magic powers and vaguely remembers some eerie stories surrounding his elder brother Frico. These, as well as early events that Skid saw with his own eyes, convince him that Frico has a gift to fix things by simply sketching them.

Rights sold: Spain (Siruela)

Remainder

FICTION

Tom McCarthy, *From the author of C, shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize 2010*

Traumatized by an accident which "involved something falling from the sky" and leaves him eight and a half million pounds richer but hopelessly estranged from the world around him, Remainder's hero spends his time and money obsessively reconstructing and re-enacting vaguely remembered scenes and situations from his past: a large building with piano music in the distance, the familiar smells and sounds of liver frying and spluttering, lethargic cats lounging on roofs until they tumble off them... But when this fails to quench his thirst for authenticity, he starts re-enacting more and more violent events, as his repetition addiction spirals out of control.

Rights sold: Croatian (OceanMore); French (Hachette Littératures); Greek (Papyros); Italian (ISBN); Japanese (Shinchosha); Korean (Minumsa); Portuguese (Estampa); Spanish (Lengua de Trapo); Germany (Diaphanes); Uitgeverij Prometheus (Netherlands); USA (Vintage); Achuzat Bayit (Israel); Ad Marginem (Russia); Buchmann (Poland); Jaguar Kitab (Turkey)

The Tower

FICTION

Alessandro Gallenzi

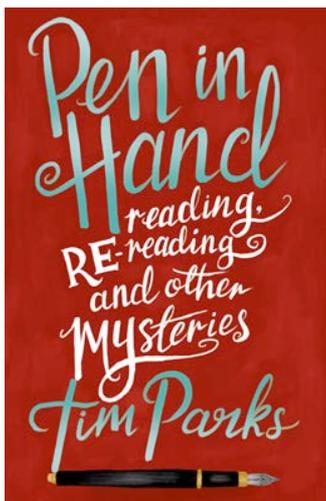
Amman, Jordan. As an ambitious digitization project gathers pace in a vast building outside Amman, some unpublished writings by Giordano disappear together with the Jesuit priest sent by the Vatican to study them. When the priest is found dead and a series of mysterious threats ensues, it becomes clear that the stakes are high for all the parties openly or covertly involved. What dangerous ideas were contained in the stolen manuscripts? What was the ultimate secret that Bruno tried to hide from the Holy Inquisition, even as he was persecuted, imprisoned, tortured and finally burnt alive in Rome?

Previous Novels:

InterRail - Rights sold to: Thiele Verlag (Germany), Outdoorbooks AB (Sweden)

Bestseller - Rights sold to: Gimtasis Zodis (Lithuania), Atticus Group (Russia); Leda (Czech Republic); Alba (Spain), Outdoorbooks AB

NON-FICTION



PEN IN HAND
Reading, Re-reading and Other Mysteries

Tim Parks

May 2019 · 300pp

A new book from “one of the best living writers of English”

How can other people like the books we don't like? What benefit can we get from rereading a work? Can we read better? If so, how? These and many other questions, ranging from the field of writing to that of reading and translation, are given a comprehensive answer in a series of stimulating and challenging literary essays that will be a perfect read for all book explorers and practitioners of the pen.

After delighting us with his novels and many volumes of non-fiction, Tim Parks gives us a book to enjoy, savour and, most importantly, reread.

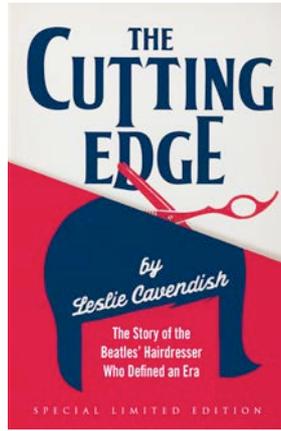
His previous work of essays 'Where I Am Reading From' was one of Publishers Weekly's Top Ten Spring 2015 Literary Biographies, Essays & Criticism titles and it was praised as follows:

"Brilliantly skewers the pieties of the literary world." --Lionel Shriver, *Prospect Magazine*

"Quietly incendiary." --Tim Adams, *The Observer*

"He asks why people want to become writers and his wry and well-evidenced answers are ones that Dr. Johnson would have perfectly well recognized." --John Mullan, *The Guardian*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Tim Parks is the author of fourteen novels, including *Europa* (shortlisted for the Booker prize), *Destiny*, *Cleaver*, *Sex Is Forbidden* and, most recently, *In Extremis*, all of which have been translated into many languages. As well as being a novelist and the author of several works of non-fiction, most notably *A Season with Verona*, shortlisted for the William Hill Sports Book of the Year and *Teach Us to Sit Still*, shortlisted for the Wellcome Book Prize, Tim is the acclaimed translator and a regular contributor to the *New York Review of Books* and the *London Review of Books*.



THE CUTTING EDGE

The Story of the Beatles' Hairdresser Who Defined an Era

Leslie Cavendish

September 2017 · 300pp

How the history of Rock and Roll was changed by a single hairstyle

The Beatles' hair changed the world. As their increasingly wild, untamed manes grew, to the horror of parents everywhere, they set off a cultural revolution as the most tangible symbol of the Sixties' psychedelic dream of peace, love and playful rebellion. At the centre of this epochal change was Leslie Cavendish, hairdresser to the Beatles and designer of the four iconic men's hairstyles, a brand image as immediately recognizable as the Nike swoosh or the Coca-Cola bottle.

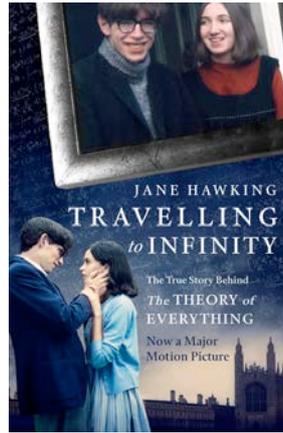
But just how did a fifteen-year-old Jewish school dropout from an undistinguished North London suburb, with no particular artistic talent or showbusiness connections, end up literally at the cutting edge of Sixties' fashion in just four years? His story – honest, always entertaining and inspiring – parallels the meteoric rise of the Beatles themselves, and is no less astounding.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Leslie Cavendish was born in East London and grew up as part of a large and lively Jewish family in Burnt Oak, North London. He was apprenticed to Vidal Sassoon in 1962, becoming a stylist in his own right three years later. By a stroke of luck he became Paul McCartney's private hairdresser in 1966, and soon began to work on the image of all four Beatles, at the Apple offices and in their recording studios, and was even invited along as a friend and participant on the Magical Mystery Tour. In 1967, he opened his own salon, backed by Apple and the Beatles, at King's Road, Chelsea.

After the official breakup of the Beatles, Leslie closed his salon and ran a clothing boutique in South London, while remaining a freelance hairdresser. In 1978, he entered the family footwear business and remained there until 1998 before moving to Spain. He now works for a major charity but also conducts occasional "VIP Beatles Tours" of London, lectures on the Beatles and Sixties culture, and consults with the Beatles Fan Club. Leslie Cavendish has two sons and divides his time between Britain and Spain. This is his first book.

Rights sold: Spanish (Urano)

NON-FICTION



Travelling to Infinity *The True Story behind The Theory of Everything*

Jane Hawking

January 2015 · 400pp

A major Oscar-winning Motion Picture starring Eddie Redmayne as Hawking and Felicity Jones as his wife Jane.

In this compelling memoir, Jane Hawking, Stephen Hawking's first wife, relates the inside story of their extraordinary marriage. As Stephen's academic renown soared, his body was collapsing under the assaults of motor neurone disease, and Jane's candid account of trying to balance his twentyfour- hour care with the needs of their growing family will be inspirational to anyone dealing with family illness. The innerstrength of the author, and the self-evident character and achievements of her husband, make for an incredible tale that is always presented with unflinching honesty; the author's candour is no less evident when the marriage finally ends in a highprofile meltdown, with Stephen leaving Jane for one of his nurses, while Jane goes on to marry an old family friend.

Rights sold: Thailand (Post Publishing); Sc Humanitas Sa (Romania); Wetbild Media (Poland); Piper Verlag (Germany); Dogan Kitapcilik (Turkey); Piemme Mondadori (Italy); Libri Könyvkiadó Kft (Hungary); PT Gramedia Pustaka Utama (Indonesia); ThinkBank (Korea); Lumen, Penguin Random House (Spain); Editora Gente (Brazil); Eksmo (Russia); Vulkan Izdavaštvo (Serbia); Albatros (Czech Republic); City Editions (France); Chongqing Publishing House Co. (China); Marcador Editora (Portugal); Gema Press (Greece); Hai Dang (Vietnam)

In Search of Mary: The Mother of All Journeys

Non-Fiction

Bee Rowlatt

Having been smitten by Mary Wollstonecraft's travel book *Letters Written in Sweden, Norway and Denmark* in her student days, Bee Rowlatt decides to follow, with toddler in tow, in the footsteps of the world's first celebrity feminist in order to explore the vitality of her legacy and retrace the never-dying themes of babies versus careers, comparing her encounters with guilt, progress and inequality in the eighteenth century to those experienced by women today.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Bee Rowlatt is a writer, journalist and broadcaster. She is a regular contributor to *The Daily Telegraph* and has reported for the World Service, *Newsnight* and BBC2. The co-author of the best-selling *Talking about Jane Austen in Baghdad* (Penguin 2010) as well as one of the writers featured in Virago's 2013 anthology *Fifty Shades of Feminism*, Bee won the K Blundell Trust award for *In Search of Mary*.

A Fine Brother: The Life of Captain Flora Sandes

Non-Fiction

Louise Miller

The only woman to serve as a soldier in the First World War, the Englishwoman Flora Sandes became a hero and media sensation when she fought for the Serbian Army and pursued a distinguished career in its ranks as officer. This account charts her incredible story, from her tomboyish childhood in genteel Victorian England, her mission to Serbia as a Red Cross volunteer and subsequent military enrolment, her celebrity lecture tours of Europe, her marriage to a fellow officer and her survival of a Gestapo prison during the Second World War to her final years in Suffolk.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: English-born (1968), largely Canadian-educated, Louise Miller has Master's degrees in politics and law. *A Fine Brother* is her first book. She has been recently involved with a documentary on the subject of the work of British women in Serbia during the First World War, which was shown in February 2011 on Serbia's RTS 2 to an audience of one million.

The Duce and His Women

Non-Fiction

Roberto Olla

The Duce and His Women charts the main events in Mussolini's private and public life, from his humble beginnings in Romagna as the son of a blacksmith to his years as the director of a leading Socialist newspaper and his irresistible rise to power, with a particular focus on his renowned appetite for women, and the lesser-known influence they had on his decision-making. The result is a riveting account that will shock and haunt the readers for a long time.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Roberto Olla is an award-winning writer and TV journalist. He has produced a number of internationally acclaimed history documentaries, including *The Last Godfathers* and *Emigrants*. In 2006 he has published a book called *Godfathers: Lives and Crime of Mafia Mobsters* (Alma Books).

Rights sold: Rizzoli (Italy)

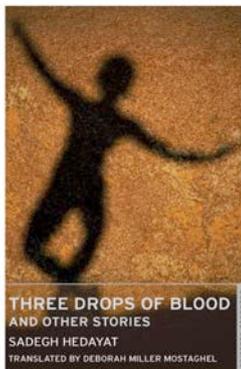


THE BLIND OWL BY SADEQ HEDAYAT

Written in Persian The Blind Owl is predominantly a love story, an unconventional love story that elicits visions and nightmare reveries from the depths of the reader's subconscious. A young man, an old man and a beautiful young girl perform, as if framed within a Persian miniature, a ritual of destruction as gradually the narrator, and the reader, discover the meaning hidden within the dreams. This unforgettable story contains a unique blend of the mystery of the Arabian Nights and an acutely contemporary sense of panic and hallucination.

The Blind Owl was written during the oppressive latter years of Reza Shah's rule (1925-1941). It was originally published in a limited edition in Bombay, during Hedayat's year-long stay there in 1937, stamped with "not for sale or publication in Iran." It first appeared in Tehran in 1941 (as a serial in the daily Iran), after Erza Shah's abdication, and had an immediate and forceful effect.

Rights sold to: Jurgen Maas Uitgeverij (Netherlands), Feltrinelli (Italy), Siruela (Spain), Motibo Publishing (Greece)

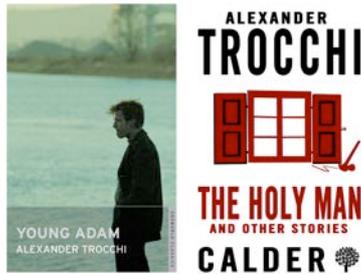


THREE DROPS OF BLOOD BY SADEQ HEDAYAT

This collection of short stories, previously unpublished in English, displays the disturbing and evocative force of Hedayat's writing, and confirms his place in the literary canon. They depict a world of revelation, uncanny similarity, grotesquery and insanity.

The title story, 'Three Drops of Blood', follows the protagonist's increasingly unstable mental state through the repeated occurrence of three drops of blood, while 'Hadji Murat' depicts an almost Joycean epiphany in classically understated terms, as a man mistakes another woman for his wife. These are stories which, though set in a distinctive milieu, deal with universal truths and cut to the very essence of humanity.

Sadeq Hedayat was born in Teheran in 1903, of an aristocratic family, and spent most of his life there. In 1951, during a stay in Paris, Hedayat committed suicide. Recognised as the outstanding Persian writer of the century, Hedayat is generally credited with having brought his country's language and literature into the mainstream of contemporary writing.



THE HOLY MAN AND OTHER STORIES – NEW (FICTION)

Above a disused bar, in a dilapidated Parisian hotel that houses an assortment of indigent, marginalized lost souls, one of the inhabitants, a mysterious, reclusive holy man, is the subject of much speculation from some of his fellow occupants and respectful reverence from others. As the tale unfolds, the dynamics of this precarious microcosm are laid bare, in a powerful portrayal of those society has forgotten.

Written when the author of *Cain's Book* was at the height of his creative powers and enjoying an increasing reputation in avant-garde literary circles, 'The Holy Man' is here presented with 'A Being of Distances', 'Peter Pierce' and 'A Meeting', stories which similarly tackle themes of loneliness and disenfranchisement.

YOUNG ADAM – (FICTION)

Trocchi's narrator is an outsider, a drifter working for the skipper of a barge. Together they discover a young woman's corpse floating in the canal, and tensions increase further in cramped confines with the narrator's highly charged seduction of the skipper's wife. Conventional morality and the objective meaning of events are stripped away in a work that proves compulsively readable.

Rights sold to: Ukraine (Komubook); Grove Atlantic (USA); Numa (Spain)

MAN AT LEISURE (POETRY)

Published for the first time in 1972, this verse collection reveals lesser-known facets of the novelist Alexander Trocchi's writing. The poems included span a long period of time, and range from the lyricism of his early love poetry and reflections on his involvement in drug culture to the penetrating comments on contemporary figures and events of his later pieces. Trocchi's language is strong, rich and frankly obscene, and his arguments are both witty and profound.

'Alex Trocchi has the courage so essential to a writer. He writes about spirit, flesh, and death and the vision that comes through the flesh... he has been there and brought it back' – **William S. Burroughs**

"The most brilliant man I've ever met" – **Allen Ginsberg**

"The Scottish George Best of the literary world." – **Irvine Welsh**

Alexander Trocchi (1925-84) was a controversial Scottish novelist of the beat generation. A heroin addict, he is best known for *Cain's Book*, an autobiographical account of his sexual misadventures and drug abuse whilst living in New York.